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Agrahayana 8, 1907 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. X contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Friday, November 29, 1985/Agrahayana 8,
1907 (SAKA)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : How is it that you are sitting all alone today Madhavji ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : It seems I shall have to sit throughout the day to day.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it so ? I am at your service, you may utilize my service in whatever way you like.

We have a proverb in *Bagri* :

*Jiski khani bajri
Uski bajani haajri*

I eat your grains and thus I am at your service.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Circulation of Imported Coins

*161 SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of coins of Indian currency manufactured in foreign countries released and put in circulation in India from 1st October, 1985;

(b) whether it was found to be cost beneficial to have the coins manufactured in foreign countries and

(c) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below

Statement

(a) Orders have been placed for import of 1,000 million pieces of one-rupee coin, 750 million pieces of 50 paise coin and 250 million pieces of 25 paise coin. So far 223.88 million pieces of one rupee coin and 110.50 million pieces of 50 paise coin have been received. Out of this, 134.32 million pieces of one-rupee coin and 37.10 million pieces of 50 paise coin have been released by Reserve Bank of India through its counters/remitted to Small Coin Depots and Currency Chests.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The cost benefit per piece is 16 paise for one rupee of coin 13.5 paise for 50 Paise coin and 10 paise for 25 paise coin.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Bombay Mint used to mint foreign coins also previously. In 1982-83 and 1983-84 the C & A G has reviewed the working of mints at Bombay and Hyderabad. He has given clear indications as to why these two mints have failed to come upto the capacity. Has the Government of India reviewed the working of these mints and also other mints in India? Is there any attempt to make them upto date and see that they come to their original capacity and ability in order not only to fulfil the requirement of Indian Government but also get back orders from foreign countries ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The Government of India has reviewed the

performance of the mints. About their capacity in the year 1982-83 the production was to the tune of 660 million pieces only. Last year they were able to produce more than 1355 million pieces. The target for this year is 2000 million pieces. On 24.11.85 It took another meeting of these people. Besides these 2000 million pieces I have also given them a further target of producing 210 million pieces more during the short span of four months. Not only that, we have increased the number of hours also from 54 to 60. Incentive scheme has also been introduced and as a result of all this, we have reached the maximum capacity. So, this is the performance. And not only that, every week we are monitoring the performance of these mints. I am myself daily monitoring and the Finan Minister is also monitoring the performance of these mints.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : It is stated in the reply that 1,000 million pieces of one-rupee coin have been ordered from foreign mints and 223.88 million pieces have been supplied and out of that only a portion has been released. Will the Hon. Minister kindly tell us whether it is not possible to have paper currency so far as one-rupee denomination is concerned, and why there has been the necessity to import 1,000 million one-rupee coins? Will he also please tell us why the entire quantity which has already been received by the Reserve Bank, has not been released?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : As far as the coins are concerned, the demand of the RBI for the current year is 3,200 million pieces and the production, as I have stated, would be 2,210 million pieces. Apart from that, we are going to import 1,500 million pieces by March 1986. So there will then be 3,710 million pieces as against the demand for 3,200 million pieces. The point that has been made by the Hon. Member is why can't we have more paper currency. We have gone in for more production of coins because the life of the currency notes is about six to seven months whereas the life of the coins is more than 25 years. Secondly, we have to see the capacity of the press also. The capacity of the press is to produce 500 million pieces of notes. So, it is not possible to meet the demand. We admit that there is a gap between the supply and the demand. Therefore, in order to meet the

demand, we are importing 1,000 million pieces of one-rupee coins. Steps have also been taken to improve the distribution. As I stated in the main reply, out of the 223.88 million pieces of one-rupee coin, the latest position is that about 139 million pieces have been distributed, 38.782 million pieces of 50 paise coin have also been distributed. Some constraints are there. Firstly, as soon as the consignment arrives at the port, that has to be immediately shifted to the 15 issue centres of the RBI and than from there it has to be distributed to the coin depots.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : Sir, will the Hon. Minister state as to what metal these coins are made of and what is the ratio of silver in them?

MR. SPEAKER : What is the ratio of silver?

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You seem to have a true fancy for silver.

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : There is no silver content in them.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no trace of silver in it.

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : What metal these coins are made of; he has not stated that? (... *Interruptions...*)

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing more left in this question for asking.

[*English*]

That is all. There is nothing in this question.

AN HON. MEMBER : How much is the foreign exchange involved in the import of these coins, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : That they have already said. The cost benefit it is about 16 paise per rupee,

AN. HON. MEMBER : What is the total amount, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can just count it. I cannot make him a calculator. That is all. There is nothing much in this question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please get one calculator each issued to all by Raja Sahib.

MR. SPEAKER : Why ? Has Raja Sahib set up a factory to manufacture calculators ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : It will be about Rs. 64.96 crores.

Development of Kovalam Tourist Centre and Thekkadi Wild Life Sanctuary in Kerala

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*166. **SHRI T. BASHEER**
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have any proposal under consideration for the development of the Kovalam tourist centre and Thekkadi Wild Life Sanctuary in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Kovalam is already a major tourist centre in the country. As far back as 1970 the Central Department of Tourism initiated action to develop Kovalam as a beach resort with a total outlay of Rs. 221.58 lakhs. There is already a 5-star ITDC hotel for many years. I.T.D.C. also has a Transport Unit at Kovalam and the Kovalam Palace Hotel. In addition to this the Kerala State Government also maintains a good hotel at Kovalam beach. State Government also has plans to clean the beaches, to introduce

various life saving measures and also to introduce more water sport facilities.

For the development of Thekkadi, the State Government has a proposal to put up a few Watch Towers to enable the tourists to have a closer view of the flora and fauna. The Central Department of Tourism has a trekking route proposal connecting Thekkadi and Mangaladevi Temple in Tamilnadu border area and provision of more boating facilities at Thekkadi Lake under consideration.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Sir, even the Hon. Minister has said in his reply that Kovalam is a very important beach resort in the matter of international tourism. In 1983-84, the Kovalam ITDC hotel had made a profit of Rs. 1.35 lakhs and in 1984-85 it made a profit of Rs. 3.62 lakhs and the Budget profit for 1985-86 is Rs. 8.3 lakhs. While many ITDC hotels are running at a loss, this ITDC hotel at Kovalam is running at a profit. In spite of this fact, no proper care has been taken towards this tourist resort and that it requires renovation. Therefore, I would request that the Government must give attention to that.

The Hon. Minister in his reply says the ITDC also has a transport unit at Kovalam and the Kovalam Palace Hotel, but I received a reply from the Hon. Minister on 31st July, 1985 saying that ITDC Management has decided to close down this unit of Ashoka Travel and Tours at Kovalam and that steps are being taken by the ITDC to implement that decision. The Unit has a total strength of nine employees. When the Unit is closed, the staff will be transferred to other transport units within the region. To my information the unit is already closed, but here it says there is a unit. This is very misleading. I would like to know the exact position that exists now. My information is that it is closed. And if it is closed, I would request the Hon. Minister to take steps to reopen it and to see that it works properly.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I certainly agree with the Hon. Member that Kovalam is a very important tourist centre for the foreign tourists. It is good that the hotel at Kovalam has been making some profit, but it is not correct to say that all ITDC hotels are suffering some loss and that this

is the only hotel that is making profit. It is certainly making some profit now, though initially there was some loss.

The second point the Hon. Member has mentioned is that the repairs and renovation has not been attended to. I shall certainly ask the ITDC to look into it and whatever renovation and repairs are required for proper maintenance will be looked into.

As far as the transport unit is concerned, it is correct that the ITDC has taken a decision to close the unit in the sense the ITDC has decided to withdraw its own vehicles because that was running under a great loss. Secondly, there was an unnecessary competition between them and the State Government vehicles. It has also been decided that all the employees should be transferred to other units so that there is no employee who loses his job. Arrangements have been made with the State Government so that vehicles and everything is ready. That way the ITDC with the support of the State Government will be certainly looking to the transport problems of the tourists. That is the change.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Everywhere even in Delhi, the transport units are running at a loss. So, it is not an experience in Kerala only. My second supplementary is this : There is a hill resort near Kovalam which is only 40 kilometres away in Ponmudi (Golden Top). If you travel from Kovalam to Ponmudi, you can travel in one hour's time. If you travel one hour by road you will reach a hill resort from a beach resort. This is a very rare facility and natural resource which is available in the country. So, if you develop Ponmudi also along with Kovalam, that will be a fantastic idea for the Minister. I am giving a very rare information to the Hon. Minister; and a fantastic idea for his imagination. I know the Hon. Minister is a man of high imagination and implementation also. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will take steps to develop both Ponmudi and Kovalam, linking both these tourist resort and implement this proposal at least under the Seventh Five-Year Plan ? It is a fantastic idea for our Minister.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I am grateful to the Hon. Member for improving my imagination and giving me this information. I am indeed very grateful to him. I would only suggest to him that he should give this idea to the State Government. Now in our Seventh Plan strategy we do wish to develop hill areas; we do wish to develop beach areas. The emphasis certainly will remain on the development of cultural tourism. But the emphasis is also going to be very much on places of scenic beauty and other holiday resorts. The idea is good. I believe it is good because an Hon. Member who is knowledgeable is saying so. And I hope that he passes on this information to the State Government. They have already given us some proposals for consideration for further development of water resources in Kovalam and certain other places in Kerala. Kerala is certainly one of the most beautiful States in the country. Certainly a lot of tourism can be developed with Central funds, with State funds and private sector funds. If he passes on this suggestion and we get a proposal from the State Government, the Central Government will certainly consider the proposal. As far as other transport centres which are incurring losses are concerned, we are thinking of rationalising everywhere wherever we think it is necessary.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that certain species of animals in the Thekkadi Wild Life Sanctuary are on the verge of extinction both due to the denuding of forests as well as by illegal poaching ? Will the Minister give instruction to the Government of Kerala to prevent the same ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I would certainly agree with the Hon. Member that the species of animals must be preserved and forests should not be destroyed. It is the job of the State Government itself. I will also certainly ask the State Government to take all possible steps. The Chief Minister told me when I went to Kerala recently that they are taking all possible steps.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I wish to ask a question. Thekkadi is in my constituency.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : In Kerala there are backwaters throughout

the coastal belt. We have got innumerable rivers also with crystal clear water. They are not as polluted as the Dal Lake. Will the Government take steps to introduce houseboats and connect water sports areas in Kerala along with the tourist centres ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, we are very much interested in encouraging water sports in Kerala and in fact the State Government has forwarded a project proposal for Central assistance to provide boating facilities at Thekkadi, Quilon, Kumarakom and Cochin at a total cost of Rs. 54 lakhs, and we have asked them to furnish the details. Similarly, there are other proposals. We are very keen to develop water sports in Kerala. We would like to develop them to the best of the availability of our finances, we like them to develop them at national and international standards, but I hope the proposals which are before us are certainly under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question—Shri Mohanbai Patel.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, Thekkadi is in my constituency. Other Members are intruding into my constituency.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : What is more in this question ?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it being in my constituency, you should allow me to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :
Kovalam is in my constituency !

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, in Kerala there are tourist resorts like Kovalam, Thekkadi and other places. But these are all maintained as if we are encouraging only the foreign tourists. Sir, what about domestic tourists ? Thekkadi is in my constituency and when the Prime Minister visited there, I went there. There is an ITDC hotel. I wanted to stay there one

night. You know, I went there and I heard about the charge. So I had to go for a cheaper one. If I give half of my monthly salary, then only I can stay there one day. So, which Indian can stay ? There is no facility for domestic tourists to stay in a place like Thekkadi. I want our own people should go and see the beauty of Thekkadi. They should also have a boat ride. Therefore, will the Hon. Minister take steps to start janata hotels in all these tourist centres whereby ordinary people can afford to pay and stay there ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, the Hon. Member has raised a very relevant question and I agree with him that there is necessity for developing domestic tourism facilities for men of meagre means. I agree with him, and the focus in the Seventh Plan is going to be on this. In this Plan period we are going to construct lots of Yatrikas which are improvised dharmashalas, at least one in each State, and also Yatri Niwas. In the dharmashalas the accommodation will be available on payment of Rs. 2/- per head, and in the Yatri Niwas on payment of Rs. 60-65 per seat. These plans are there and there are plans for one or two Yatrikas in Kerala as also for a Yatri Niwas in Kerala. In fact the emphasis in the Seventh Plan is to provide accommodation for people with meagre means and we would like the private sector also to come in a big way because ultimately the funds of the Government are limited.

Review of Performance of Bank Officials



*170. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :**
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ordered to review the performance of senior officials of public sector banks to remove inefficient and corrupt people as reported in "The Hindustan Times" of 18th October, 1985;

(b) whether review will be conducted from General Manager level downward; and

(c) if so, the action taken or being taken against the staff of branches of nationalised

banks in Delhi/New Delhi who have misused the power in October and November 1983 while disbursing the loans under 'Mass Loan Scheme' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

The terms and conditions of service of officers of the public sector banks provide for review and retirement of officers who are considered unfit for further continuance in the service of the bank. This review is undertaken at the completion of a stipulated period of service or age of the officer. With a view to toning up the operational efficiency and administration of the banks, Government have recently reiterated their earlier instructions and requested the banks to review the cases of all officers in terms of their service rules and to retire such of the officers who are not considered fit for further continuance in service.

It is a fact that a campaign was launched by various public sector banks in Deihi to identify, sanction and disburse loans to beneficiaries under anti poverty programme during October-November, 1983. The loan function was, however, held on January 4, 1984. 22 public sector banks including Punjab National Bank which was the convenor Bank for this programme have reported that no case of mis-use of power has come to their notice. Central Bank of India has, however, reported that certain procedural lapses were proved against one officer for which he was punished by lowering of his basic pay by four stages.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme formulated for the educated unemployed is a very good scheme, but the Bank officers create hindrances in it as a result of which sound proposals are not entertained. The other point is that this scheme is closed down intermittently for a shortwhile and then again re-strated after a gap. I want to know from the Hon. Minister

what steps government are taking to see that this scheme runs effectively ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI : Sir, if the translation is correct, as I heard, it has referred to.....

MR. SPEAKER : You can only reply to the translation, because the other part you did not understand. Or, can we get it repeated ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI : Yes, that will be better.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Repeat your questions please.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme started by the Government for the educated unemployed youths is a very good scheme, but the Bank officers create hindrances in it and due to this good proposals are not entertained. The other point is that this scheme is closed down for short intervals intermittently and then again re-started. In this connection, I would like to know as to what steps Government are taking to ensure that the Bank officers do not create hindrances in the implementation and the scheme runs continuously ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Have you understood it or should I translate it now ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI : Sir, the programme is continuing. There is no attempt to stop it. On the contrary, wherever obstacles were there, we have been able to remove them.

Here, the identification authority would be a task force constituted by the district authorities, i.e. D.I.C. The task force is identifying the beneficiaries. The State Government is also involved in it. There is a local administration's authority of the concerned State Government. They identify the beneficiaries ? they sponsor the applications to the banks. The banks will process the applications and grant them loans. Last

year, about 2 lakh and odd people have been granted loans under this scheme. Under this scheme a maximum of Rs. 25,000 is given and out of which 25 per cent will be the subsidy.

As I said in the beginning, there is no attempt to stop the programme.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that in the quota system, loan is made available for 1100 persons and when this quota is exhausted, the scheme is closed down and is revised again.

Secondly, the maximum loan given from the bank is Rs. 25,000 only, but actually more amount is spent. Therefore, is there any proposal to raise this amount to Rs. 40,000?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, there is quota for the entire State. The State Government in turn gives quota for each district, to identify the beneficiaries, as to how many people could be covered under this scheme. All the people under the educated unemployed category in the country cannot be covered in one year. So, the Government has fixed the target of and a half lakh people who are educated unemployed, to be identified in one year, and granted loans.

About raising of the maximum limit from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000 there is no such proposal before the Government, at this stage.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hardly 10 per cent of the cases recommended by the D.I.Cs. are given loans by the banks and only those youths get loan who give Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 5000/- as bribe. I want to suggest to the Hon. Minister that if at all he is to fix the quota, it should be fixed in respect of D.I.Cs. and the persons whose schemes are approved by them should be given loans by the

bank so that the corruptions could be removed.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : We will consider the suggestion about confining it to D.I.C. We will examine it.

Evasion of Customs Duty

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*172 **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :**
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'The Times of India' of the 3 November, 1985 wherein it has been stated that Orkay Silk Mills Bombay have been found under invoicing of imports of polyester chips and thus evading customs duty of Rs. 1.5 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the mills in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. M/s Orkay Silk Mills had during 1982 and 1983 contracted with a Japanese firm for import of polyester chips. Some of these consignments are allegedly under-invoiced to the extent of Rs. 57 lakhs leading to evasion of Customs duty of about Rs. 1.5 crores.

(c) and (d). Suitable action under the law will be taken against the company and persons concerned, after completion of investigation.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Sir, one thing is, we have made our import policy very liberal. Secondly, most of the companies or individuals who import polyester chips are involved in the evasion of customs

duty which is affecting our foreign exchange position.

So, in the present circumstances, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have formulated any policy for adopting stringent measures and taking effective action against companies and individuals who are involved in evasion of customs duty, violation of foreign exchange regulations and cases of smuggling etc ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Yes, Sir. This is one concrete example. Whenever we come across such cases, we are taking very stringent action.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : The reduction of excise duty on polyester has proved detrimental to the interests of cotton growers and they have to sell cotton at a price below the cost of production. May I know from the Hon. Minister what steps Government intends to take to improve the lot of the cotton-growers in the light of the present situation ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : This is a specific question on Orkay Silk Mills, on action taken against Orkay Silk Mills. But we have the interests of the growers in mind. For their sake, whatever surplus we have in long staple we allow that to be exported; we are also thinking of yarn exports when required; cloth is also exported; all these are in the interest of growers.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : It is a good step that Government has taken. But the Bombay textile magnates, particularly, the Orkay Silk Mills, Reliance and Bombay Dyeing, all these people who are playing against the interests of workmen, have not paid import duty. Reliance has not given Rs. 27 crores of excise duty. Of course prosecution is there. Bombay Dyeing is involved in the scandal of about 1500 acres of land. I want to know whether Government is going to deal seriously with these economic offenders. There are a lot of cases. I am asking a specific question regarding Orkay Silk Mills whether it is a fact or not that they are involved in these 80 consignments. This is a big unit which has been flourishing for the last five years. If you go into the details, if you consider their turnover and

profit in the last two years, you will find more of such types of things. I want to know whether Government is going to inquire in greater details regarding the same employer and take firm action against this employer.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We have given this notice for Rs. 27 crores against Reliance for duty evasion. About the land scandal, I will not be able to say anything immediately because most of this will relate to the State Government, I do not know if there is any information....

DR. DATTA SAMANT : A Central Minister is also one of the members of this...

AN HON. MEMBER : Which one ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Bombay Dyeing.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : About going into more details and taking action, we will go into the minutest details wherever there is evasion of law.

Change in Policy of extending Financial Assistance to States

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***174. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :**
SHRI V. TULSI RAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to change their policy of extending financial assistance to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central assistance for the Seventh Plan has been allocated on the basis of modified Gadgil Formula approved by the

National Development Council in 1980. Since then the National Development Council has not suggested any modification to the formula.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : The Hon. Minister has replied that the National Development Council has not suggested any modification to the Gadgil Formula. But it appears from the *Indian Express* of 4th November, 1985, that, while inaugurating the high level bridge over the Jamuna in Haryana, the Hon. Finance Minister has said that the Government of India is actively considering to change its policy of extending financial assistance to States on the basis of performances and rate of economic growth. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, under the modified Gadgil Formula, how much assistance will be given to the States.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : About the assistance to be given to the States, in the Seventh Plan it is going to be a total of Rs. 27,384 crores while in the Sixth Plan it was only Rs. 16,099 crores.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : I would like to know whether Government will allow overdraft to the States as in previous years. If so, whether there is a limit or not.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : No Sir, strictly not.

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Development of Ayodhya

*176. **SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI :** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to prepare an elaborate programme for the development of tourism and culture of all the major religious places in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering any scheme for the development of Ayodhya in this connection;

(c) whether the State Government had submitted a scheme for the development of Ayodhya in 1984; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has identified a number of tourist centres including Ayodhya for phased development through the combined resources of the Central, State and the private sector.

(b) to (d). The State Government had submitted a proposal for beautification and display gardening of Ayodhya Ghats at an estimated cost of Rs. 104 lakhs. The scheme could not be accepted as beautification and display gardening etc. *per-se* do not fall within the purview of the Department of Tourism activities. The State Government has been requested to recast the proposal according to the norms of Department of Tourism.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Sir, my question arises out of the reply given by the Hon. Minister. Ayodhya has been identified as a tourist centre and efforts for its development will be made. I think the department of Tourism confines itself to metropolitan cities only. Has any policy decision to deviate from the established criteria been taken recently under which small places, whether they are religious centres or have some other importance will also be given priority ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : In reply to his suggestion that other places should also be taken, I want to tell the young Hon. Member that more attention is paid to big centres because they attract more tourists. I agree with him that attention should also be paid to such small cities where influx of tourists is comparatively more. 441 such centres have been identified in the entire Country. Priority will be given to those centres where influx of tourists is more and there will be no question of big or small town. With this criteria in view, places will be identified and assistance will be provided to develop them depending upon the availability of resources.

MR. SPEAKER : I also have a suggestion.

I have seen Vrindavan, Mathura. No adequate transport facilities are available to reach there. They will look after the temples themselves, but the Government should see that drinking water and transport facilities are provided because these are the places which help national integration. A large number of tourists from South come to see these places. I have also written to you about this; you please look into this carefully.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I shall follow up your suggestion with the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Not follow up alone.

[*English*]

It has got to be implemented.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : It will be so kind of you if you could include Pushkar also.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : In this connection, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether Central Government propose to take initiative to open a museum of its own, besides that of the State Government, to preserve a large number of hand-written authentic 'Ramayan' of ancient times written in different languages which are now gradually becoming extinct and also to preserve cultural heritage ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : The second supplementary asked by the Hon. Member does not concern my Ministry. For this, I think, he will have to take it up with the Ministry of Culture or with some other Ministry. Although, personally speaking, his is a very good suggestion.

SHRI MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, like Canada, which is famous for its beauty, there are numerous tales of chivalry about Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts. Besides, there are many other objects, of beauty, forts, places there. Therefore, I would like to know whether Sikar and Jhunjhunu would also be included in it or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is talking about preservation of ancient objects of art.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Rajasthan is very beautiful and interesting. There are many places in the State which can be developed for tourism, but as I said in the beginning, the suggestion of the Hon. Member will certainly be considered when the State Government come out with any such proposal.

One thing more I want to say. There is not the question of only the follow up action with regard to your suggestion; I am trying to explain further. You have said rightly; there is much scope for paying attention to many things like transport, way-side facilities, environment and roads around a number of religious places. State Government can be told to take measures in this direction. I shall try to approach them I shall also try at my level if it comes in the ambit of our policy.

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES : The Shankhumugam beach opposite the Trivandrum Airport is one of the most beautiful beach centres in the country and the coastal belt from Shankhumugam to Kovalam, a stretch of roughly 12 km is also one of the most beautiful parts of the country and there was a proposal to develop this stretch as a marine drive. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether this will be taken up in the central sector and completed in the Seventh Plan ?

MR. SPEAKER : All roads lead to Kovalam.

[*Translation*]

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : As I have said earlier, we shall consider the suggestions and schemes sent by the State Governments and if Hon. Members also write, we shall ask the State Government to consider it. After that, we shall consider allocation of funds for these projects depending upon the availability of finances.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : That is all now.

Next Question— Shrimati Bibha Ghosh Goswami,...

Then, Shri Kali Prasad Pandey.

Then, Shri Amarsinh Rathawa...

Prof. K. V. Thomas.

Import of Natural Rubber

*179. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have authorised immediate import of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the quantity of natural rubber likely to be imported this year;

(c) whether it will have any effect on the growers of rubber and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the production of national rubber in the country to save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Likely imports of natural rubber in 1985-86 may be around 29,000 tonnes. Decisions on quantum, timing and release price of imported rubber take into account the need to maintain domestic prices at a steady level which is remunerative to the growers.

(d) The Rubber Board is providing subsidies, extension advisory support rain-gardening materials, high yielding planting materials etc. for growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation, with a view to increasing rubber production in the country.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : In the statement laid on the Table of the House the Hon. Minister has said that 29,000 tonnes of natural rubber may be imported in the year 1985-86. Already the import of coconut oil in the form of industrial oil and under

OGL has already broken the backbone of the coconut cultivators in Kerala. Similarly, the decision to import natural rubber will be a great blow to the rubber-growers of Kerala. According to the information received the internal output of natural rubber during this year and next year will be sufficient for our internal use. If this information is correct, will this decision of the Government of India be reconsidered and, if you must import rubber, then will the imported rubber be put as a buffer stock ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : There is definitely a shortage of rubber and there is a gap of 30,000 metric tonnes between the production and actual requirement. But I certainly agree with the Hon. Member that this imported rubber should be released when the indigenous rubber is not available or prices shoot up to more than Rs. 16,500/- per tonne.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : In the last session during the discussion on the natural calamities, an assurance has been given on the floor of the House that plantation, especially, the rubber plantation in Kerala which has suffered a lot during the havoc, rain and landslides will be helped by the Rubber Board and other Commodity Boards. But now we find that assurance has not been kept. Will the Hon. Minister kindly look into it ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : As far as the assurance is concerned, a number of things have been done and if I read them, I will take the time of the House. So I can pass it on to the Hon. Member.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I want to know whether the Government has received any memorandum from the tyre manufacturers association in this country regarding import of rubber and if so, how much quantity of rubber—they have demanded to be imported?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, I have already mentioned that the difference between production and requirement is about 29,000 tonnes.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, I wanted to know whether any memorandum has been received by the Government from the tyre manufacturers.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : They are also consumers of rubber and naturally they will need rubber.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, my question has not been replied. I wanted to know whether any memorandum has been received by the Government from the tyre manufacturers.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, about the memorandum I will have to check up.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, if you permit I want to ask a very pertinent question.

MR. SPEAKER : No. No. I have passed on to the next question. I am not going to make flexible my rule today otherwise it would hurt me.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It is a very pertinent question. May I put the question ?

MR. SPEAKER : Next time. You did once today.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Sir, in view of our experience of yesterday and today, the maximum number of oral questions put down for a day should be increased.

MR. SPEAKER : The question List is over. I will go over the List again so that if any of the absent Members are now present they may put their questions. . . I find no such Member is present. We will take up the next item.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Export of Gold Ornaments

*162. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state :

(a) how much gold ornaments were exported during 1985 till date;

(b) what is the contribution of India in the world market of gold ornaments; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the export of gold ornaments from India keeping in view their increasing demand in the world market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Export of gold jewellery from India during April—October, 1985 are estimated to be of Rs. 53.13 crores.

(b) Indian exports of gold jewellery constitute a negligible share of the world trade in precious metals jewellery.

(c) Product and market development for gold jewellery exports in addition to liberalisation of policies governing the export production of gold jewellery are some of the important steps taken by the Government in this regard.

[*English*]

Misuse of Baggage Concession

*164 **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale misuse of baggage concession under the baggage rules with proliferation of "Carrier" traffic was brought home by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in the light thereof to prevent misuse of these rules by passengers undertaking frequent trips to neighbouring countries to take out and bring goods from and into the country which allow big margin of profit due to difference in prevailing prices thereof in the country and abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI) : (a) In its Seventh report presented to the Eighth Lok Sabha, the Public Accounts Committee had urged that Government should devise a system which would combine faster clearance of passengers with prevention of abuse of baggage rules.

(b) The free allowance for passengers coming from Sri Lanka and Maldives was reduced as it was being misused due to the low travel cost. No free allowance is available to passengers coming from Nepal. The comparatively high travel cost to other countries would reduce the scope for such traffic. The rules are meant for bona fide baggage only and the Customs are even now empowered to intercept carriers and impound their goods. Lack of adequate facilities at airports and anxiety not to cause inconvenience to bona fide passengers have been preventing the airport customs from enforcing the restrictions on carriers, but with the build up of new terminals the customs are increasingly enabled to be more effective in this field.

Import of Synthetic Rubber

*165. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not canalising the import of synthetic rubber as has been done in the case of natural rubber;

(b) whether the import of synthetic rubber under Open General Licences has resulted in the dumping of the same by Taiwan, Japan and South Korea; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such dumping of synthetic rubber by foreign countries at throw away prices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Canalisation is resorted to either for reasons of Government policy on account of sensitivity of item involved e.g. edible oils, or for sound commercial reasons i.e. to have better terms of trade because of bulk buying to have price advantage or where it is considered necessary to regulate and monitor the imports. The Government has considered it advisable not to canalise synthetic rubber.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Decline in Exports by STC

*167. SHRI MOHANBAI PATEL : SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the principal items being exported by the State Trading Corporation and the total value of the export made by the State Trading Corporation during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) whether there is a decline in the exports made by the State Trading Corporation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the target fixed for the year 1985-86 and the amount of export made till date; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the exports and to achieve the targets fixed for the year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Principal items of export of STC are : Jute Goods, Coffee, Tobacco, Tea, Castor Oil, Leather and Leather products including Footwear and its components, Cotton textile, and Readymade garments, Sugar and Molasses and Opium. Export during 1983-84 and 1984-85 by STC were Rs. 796 crores and Rs. 720 crores respectively.

(b) and (c). Export by STC during 1983-84 increased by 26 per cent over 1982-83. In 1984-85 export by STC declined due to sharp decline in export of sugar during the year and decanalisation of Shellac/Seedlac.

(d) and (e). Target for export by STC for 1985-86 is Rs. 716 crores. Export during April '85—Oct' 85 have amounted to Rs. 125 crores. Following steps have been taken by STC to achieve the target fixed for 1985-86 :

(i) Supply base is being strengthened by enrolling reputed manufacturers and suppliers.

(ii) Buying power of STC is being used to maximise exports through counter-trade deals.

Delay in Settlement of Insurance Claims of Flat Owners of Gopala Towers, Delhi

*168. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that many of the flat owners in the Gopala Towers, Delhi which caught fire in 1983, have not so far been given their insurance money;

(b) owners of how many flats have not been given their insurance claims;

(c) whether he is also aware that some of these flat owners are retired Government servants and ex-servicemen and are hard hit by this delay; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to expedite their claims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The insurance policy on the building was taken from Oriental Insurance Company Limited in the name of United Towers India Private Limited and not in the name of the individual owners of the flats in the building and hence, no payment of insurance claims could be made to the individual owners of these flats.

(c) Government had received representations from Gopala Tower Flat Owners' Association, *inter alia*, to this effect.

(d) Oriental Insurance Company Limited have since decided to admit liability of the claim lodged by the insured, *inter alia*, keeping the representations of the Flat Owners' Association in view, and have appointed surveyors to assess the loss.

Export of Iron Ore to China

*169. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Chinese delegation visited India and examined the various facilities for the export of minerals in the country;

(b) whether they visited Orissa to explore the possibility of iron ore export to China;

(c) if so, their reaction after the visit to Orissa;

(d) whether Government of China have expressed their desire to import iron ore from India; and

(e) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The delegation appeared to be impressed by the quality of Indian iron ore.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the year 1986 China is likely to import 1 to 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore from India.

Price Stamping on non-cotton Fabrics

*171. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to extend the scheme of price stamping to non-cotton fabrics; and

(b) if so, when the scheme is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Revised textile control orders to extend the existing scheme for price stamping on cotton cloth to non-cotton fabrics have been received by the Government. Action has already been initiated to finalise the control orders.

Modernisation Programme for Mining Industry

*173. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an ambitious modernisation programme for the mining industry has been drawn up for the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard so far as the question of amount for upgrading of technology is concerned ; and

(c) whether Government have considered that since the power, steel and cement sectors depend heavily on mineral products, the mining cost would have to be brought down to ensure that there was no general inflation in the economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) to (c). Modernisation of mining methods is a continuing process. Steps taken in regard to mining are generally a part and parcel of the mining project. Modernisation programmes for the mines of Public Sector undertakings under this Department have been drawn up during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The mines of the Public Sector Undertakings e.g. Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, Bharat Gold Mines Limited etc. have their own plans of modernisation. As per Science and Technology Plan of the Department, outlays proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan are of the order of about Rs. 65 crores. This will cover the schemes for improved operating practices, improved resources recovery, development introduction of new technology for better performance, improving productivity and environmental control, augmentation facility for ore dressing etc.

During the 7th plan, in regard to coal mines, introduction of large capacity excavation equipment, mechanisation, modern power support longwall equipment, telemonitoring systems etc. are contemplated. Similarly, in the mines of public sector units engaged in the production of non-ferrous metals, modern equipment and techniques are being introduced, where possible.

Efforts are being made by the Government to deploy, as far as practicable, modern equipments and machinery alongwith the import of modern technical know-how in the mining operations so that the cost of production of minerals may be considerably reduced. The minerals required for the mineral-based industries like, power, steel and cement etc. are being mined both in the public sector and private sector. Efforts will have to be made by the public as well as the private sector for reduction in cost. While it is

difficult to spell out any specific measures in this direction, it is being impressed on the public sector to examine their cost structures, and to reduce them so that their products become competitive.

Proposal regarding Introduction of Automatic Licensing System

*175. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Small and Medium Exporters (ICSME) has urged Government to introduce automatic licensing system to facilitate the actual users to obtain the basic material without having to resort to any cumbersome procedure;

(b) whether Government have examined the representation of the ICSME;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). A few representations have been received urging the Government to introduce Automatic Licensing system but it has not been found possible to agree to this suggestion. However the matter is still under examination.

Mining/Quarrying of Limestone in Dehra Dun—Mussoorie

*177. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group constituted to examine the question of mining/quarrying of limestone in Dehra Dun—Mussoorie headed by Shri D.N. Bhargava has submitted its report to Government ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

The salient features of the report are that for the production of 1.1 million tonnes to 1.5 million tonnes of limestone every year, a stretch of 40 Kms. covering an area of 1000 Hectares is being mined which is very high. The Working Group divided the open-cast mining into two categories. The first category consisting of 20 mining leases was found suitable for mining purposes. The lessees were, however, required to fulfil certain obligations regarding systematic operation of mines, employment of suitable qualified technical personnels etc. The second category consisted of 46 mining leases for which the Working Group recommended that they should be discontinued. No new mining lease should be granted straight away in the area without the entrepreneurs getting the prospecting licence, conducting exploration and submitting a mining scheme along with the application for mining lease. No lease for limestone as a minor mineral be granted. The Indian Bureau of Mines and the Directorate General of Mines Safety should be strengthened.

The report of the Working Group was considered by a Committee of Secretaries. The Committee recommended the review of existing legal provisions, preparation of exploitation plan, strengthening of Indian Bureau of Mines and Directorate General of Mines Safety etc. In the meantime a writ petition was filed by the Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra, Dehradun and Mussoorie area. The Supreme Court, vide an order dated the 12th March, 1985, has directed the closure of certain mines and the termination of mines leases. In the case of certain other/mining leases, the Supreme Court has appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri D. Bandyopadhyay, Secretary, Department of Rural Development to enquire into the desirability of their continuance. Certain other mines have been allowed to be operated subject to observance of rules and regulations. Amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act and the rules made thereunder are under consideration. The staff strength of the Indian Bureau of Mines has been increased. The Department of Environment has set up an Eco Task Force for the purpose

of reclamation and soil conservation in the areas where mining has been closed as per Supreme Court's orders.

[*Translation*]

Recovery of Loans from Sick Industrial Units

*178. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about eight per cent of loans given to industrial sectors is with sick industrial units;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken effective steps to recover these loans from the sick industrial units;

(c) the details of measures taken so far to recover the loans from sick industrial units; and

(d) the amount recovered upto October, 1985 as a result of these measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) At the end of December, 1984 (latest available) the provisional figures of outstanding advances to sick industrial units constituted 7.8 per cent of total advances of all scheduled commercial banks.

(b) and (c). It is the responsibility of banks to recover the loans advanced by them to industrial units. In regard to sick industrial units, the banks are expected to determine the viability of the units and nurse the potentially viable units to health so as to, eventually, recover their dues. In the case of non-viable units, the banks may recall the advances and take recourse to legal measures for recovering their dues.

(d) The account of any industrial unit with the bank is a running account and the financial assistance is granted on a 'roll over' basis. It is, therefore, not possible to say how much amount has been recovered by the banks from the sick units in their assistance portfolio.

[English]

Working of Coffee Board

*180. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Growers assail working of Coffee Board" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' of 30th October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a note of the threat of the Karnataka Planters' Association; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Coffee Board as presently constituted provides balanced representation to the various interests, connected with the coffee industry. The Board has succeeded in ensuring more remunerative and steady returns to the coffee growers as compared to other Agricultural Commodities. It has also optimized foreign exchange earnings and ensured steady domestic prices. Experts are expected to go up from 67,000 tonnes last year to 97,000 tonnes. Domestic release have also been increased.

Jute Farmer of West Bengal facing Economic Hardship due to low price of Jute

1709. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had ignored the demand of the West Bengal Jute farmers for a minimum price of Rs. 800/- per quintal of raw jute with the result that the farmers were in 'deep distress'; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to relieve them of their present economic hardships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (b). With the harvesting of a bumper crop of raw jute this season, prices have declined in almost all upcountry markets. For protecting the interests of jute growers, Government has announced the minimum statutory price of raw jute for 1985-86 season, on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The Jute Corporation of India has undertaken price support operation on a larger scale than ever before. The Jute Corporation of India is also using mass media to advise the farmers not to make distress sale at prices below the statutory minimum to unscrupulous traders and bring their produce to JCI/Co-operative purchase centres.

Demand of Steel for Small Scale Units from 1980 to 1985

1710. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minisetr of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise demand for steel for small-scale industrial units in tonnes, year-wise, from 1980-81 to 1984-85;

(b) the State-wise allotment year-wise during the same period; and

(c) the State-wise actual distribution year-wise during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The demand for iron and steel is not assessed State-wise. SSI units obtain iron and steel through State Small Scale Industries Corporations, the stockyards of main producers and also directly from the plants.

(b) and (c). The allocations made by the Iron and Steel Controller to Small Scale Industries Corporations and the actual supplies made by the main producers during the period 1980-81 to 1984-85 are given in the statement given below.

Statement

(Figures in tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of Small Scale Industries Corporations (SSICs).	1980-81		1981-82	
		Allocation	Supply	Allocation	Supply
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29,500	21,488	30,399	24,712
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,100	200	1,147	293
3.	Assam	12,000	4,896	11,065	4,455
4.	Bihar	15,260	14,150	15,757	7,616
5.	Chandigarh	13,400	14,985	13,648	7,681
6.	Dadra, Nagar & Haveli	1,000	463	1,120	421
7.	Delhi	45,150	36,433	45,343	24,650
8.	Goa	5,000	1,417	4,797	1,684
9.	Gujarat	53,350	40,671	55,306	33,709
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4,500	4,824	4,976	1,427
11.	Haryana	40,750	26,783	42,178	27,936
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	21,015	16,646	22,013	8,988
13.	Karnataka	29,000	27,231	30,654	15,201
14.	Kerala	28,325	27,188	27,179	13,494
15.	Madhya Pradesh	21,300	17,273	23,467	13,693
16.	Maharashtra	55,550	58,067	51,501	37,780
17.	Manipur	1,300	290	1,115	237
18.	Meghalaya	200	166	299	162
19.	Mizoram	350	67	307	250
20.	Nagaland	1,000	577	1,076	1,118
21.	Orissa	16,050	11,154	16,592	10,879
22.	Pondicherry	2,300	927	2,696	1,019
23.	Punjab	50,550	58,670	49,157	33,851
24.	Rajasthan	25,150	24,014	27,176	17,279
25.	Tamil Nadu	29,585	28,148	30,908	19,449
26.	Tripura	1,250	222	1,256	462
27.	Uttar Pradesh	43,975	30,234	47,490	27,043
28.	West Bengal	36,400	20,436	35,886	19,147
Total :		584,310	487,622	594,506	354,627

Sl. No.	Name of SSICs.	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
		Allocations	Supply	Allocations	Supply	Allocations	Supply
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29,243	13,365	27,700	13,938	29,100	15,025
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,325	72	1,400	—	1,400	175
3.	Assam	11,410	2,260	11,700	288	12,000	728
4.	Bihar	13,485	2,020	14,400	935	10,600	3,150
5.	Chandigarh	13,803	3,594	13,700	5,022	14,600	17,357
6.	Dadra, Nagar & Havelli	1,157	270	1,400	55	1,400	—
7.	Delhi	45,278	14,669	44,600	271	33,500	20,674
8.	Goa	5,617	1,815	4,900	472	5,400	174
9.	Gujarat	54,703	17,826	48,400	13,546	53,000	14,525
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4,720	360	5,200	2,015	6,000	2,232
11.	Haryana	42,799	8,529	38,800	11,928	41,000	24,114
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,429	2,914	22,000	4,117	13,600	6,328
13.	Karnataka	30,325	7,883	28,000	3,393	29,900	13,107
14.	Kerala	24,237	4,370	26,000	981	14,400	653
15.	Madhya Pradesh	22,785	11,315	21,300	9,606	21,500	12,760
16.	Maharashtra	50,109	25,134	49,700	12,049	45,700	25,210
17.	Manipur	1,164	—	1,350	—	1,400	—
18.	Meghalaya	407	129	370	—	800	164
19.	Mizoram	543	124	380	296	1,300	95
20.	Nagaland	1,453	264	1,800	—	1,520	400
21.	Orissa	16,508	5,149	14,600	5,975	16,600	9,275
22.	Pondicherry	2,842	680	2,500	353	3,510	777
23.	Punjab	48,966	18,817	50,030	11,621	47,000	21,366
24.	Rajasthan	26,579	5,318	24,700	1,985	26,900	7,456
25.	Tamil Nadu	28,777	7,340	28,000	6,189	28,100	12,732
26.	Tripura	1,057	26	1,400	44	3,300	150
27.	Uttar Pradesh	45,489	10,481	46,300	3,399	28,000	11,632
28.	West Bengal	30,723	7,247	35,400	1,302	30,000	6,665
Total :		575,924	171,971	566,000	109,780	529,214	226,946

Bringing of pay of Co-operative Banks at par with Nationalised Banks

1711. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the employees of the Co-operative banks are paid consolidated lower salaries than their counterparts in the nationalised banks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government project such as Integrated Rural Development Programme in rural areas are mostly implemented by the co-operative banks;

(c) whether it is also fact that Government have proposed to fix the pay of co-operative bank employees at par with the employees of nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The pay scales and allowances of employees working in cooperative banks are different from the pay scales and allowances of employees of the 28 Public Sector Banks.

(b) No, Sir. The bulk of the finance amounting to nearly 82 per cent under the Integrated Rural Development Programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan period was provided by the 28 Public Sector Banks and the Regional Rural Banks.

(c) and (d), Cooperation is a State subject. In most of the States, the Cooperative Societies Acts vest powers with the State Governments to make rules regulating qualifications, remuneration, allowances and other service conditions of the employees of the cooperative societies. The question of the Union Government considering any proposal for regulating the pay and allowances of the employees of cooperative societies does not, therefore, arise.

Central Excise arrears on cigarette manufacturing companies

1712. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) Whether Indian Tobacco Company Limited, Vazir Sultan Tobacco Industries, Godfrey Phillips India Limited, Golden Tobacco Limited and other cigarette manufacturing companies owe central excise arrears running into hundreds of crores of rupees; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for their recovery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Charges of malpractices against the persons who run the NTC mills

1713. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain mills run by the National Textile Corporation are manned by persons against whom serious charges of malpractices have been levelled;

(b) if so, how many mills (with names) run by the National Textile Corporation are being manned by such persons and the nature of the charges levelled against each of them.

(c) whether any inquiry into the charges levelled against the persons manning these mills has been conducted by Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Complaints alleging irregularities and corrupt practices against General Managers/Chief Executive Officers of mills are received from time to time. At present there are 9 such mills. In case of Ahmedabad Jupiter Mills, Ahmedabad and India United Mills No. 2, Bombay, penalty has been imposed on the

General Manager concerned. In the remaining cases inquiries/action is pending and it will not be in public interest to disclose the names of the mills. The details of the charges in each case are given in the statement below.

(c) and (d). All 9 cases are covered by CBI or departmental investigation. In two cases inquiries were completed and minor penalties imposed. In three other cases inquiries are complete and appropriate action is being processed by NTC.

Statement

List of charges

1. Shortage of raw-material was detected.
2. Irregularities in the placement of transportation orders.
3. Allowing of cash discount in late payment, favouring certain parties in sales etc.
4. Waiving of penalty clause for late delivery of printing machine.
5. Irregular purchase of store items.
6. Alleged false T.A. claims in his previous employment.
7. Purchase of machines without inviting quotations, mis-use of staff car, etc.
8. Purchase of colours, chemicals, acquisitions of assets, etc.
9. Fraudulent delivery of documents without realising payments.

Total cost of collection of various taxes etc.

1714. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total cost of collection of various taxes like (i) Income-tax, (ii) Central Excise, (iii) Customs Duty;

(b) whether Government propose to evolve a policy whereby the cost of collection could be reduced as a measure of increasing Government revenue;

(c) if so, the steps that are in the offing in this regard and at what level these measures are to be implemented; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to carry out an exercise of ascertaining the methods of reduction of cost of collection of the revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI) : (a) The cost of collection in respect of income-tax, Central Excise and Customs Duty in percentage for the financial year 1984-85 is as under :

Tax/Duty	Cost of collection in %age (Financial year 1984-85)
1. Direct Taxes	2.17%
2. Custom Duty	0.94% (provisional)
3. Union Excise Duty	0.64%

(b) to (d). To maximise the revenue collection and minimise expenditure on collection thereof thus reducing the cost of collection of various taxes is an ongoing exercise. Accordingly revenue collection figures of both direct and indirect taxes and expenditure on their collection with reference to targets are kept under constant watch. Central Government is aiming at overall 5 per cent reduction in its non-plan expenditure including reducing staff strength of the Department of Revenue and its field formation wherever possible which is consistent with efficiency and also additional revenue collection drive.

Change of Neelachal Ispat Nigam from Paradip to Daitari

1715. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether on 27 March, 1982 a new company Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited was formed as a wholly owned Union Government Company to implement the steel project (Orissa);

(b) whether after some time Union Government decided to change the site from Paradip to Daitari as it was felt that Paradip would not be suitable site due to adverse meteriological and site conditions; and

(c) if so, the details regarding its progress ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The notification for the acquisition of land has been issued by the State Government. Soil investigation and raw material testing have been completed as also studies on the availabiliy of water. As a part of the enabling works, 16.74 acres of land near the site has been acquired. A storage shed has been completed with facilities of temporary water supply. Construction of 50 quarters for bachelor and family accommodation in the form of barracks is in the final stage of completion. Work on the water supply system, the sewage disposal scheme and power supply is in hand.

Increase in Export of Commodities during Seventh Five Year Plan

1716. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase exports during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the commodities the export of which is proposed to be increased;

(c) the quantum of these commodities exported during the Sixth Five Year Plan period and the foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The volume of exports is projected to rise by about 7 per cent per annum during the Seventh Five Year Plan period 1985-90.

(b) to (d). It is proposed to increase exports, during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, from all the sectors, both traditional and non-traditional. The projections of exports in respect of selected products/product groups for 1989-90 as compared to the exports in the terminal year, 1984-85, of the Sixth Five Year Plan are as below :—

(Rs. crores at 1984-85 prices)

Products/Product groups	1984-85 (Estimated)	1989-90 (Projected)
Tea	718	770
Cashew Kernels	217	312
Marine Products	388	446
Iron Ore	438	608
Cotton Textiles	380	440
Readymade garments	875	1336
Engineering goods	870	1862
Chemicals and allied products	760	1224
Gems and jewellery	1367	1663

Opening of Branches of Andhra Bank and Central Bank of India at Ibrahimpatnam Distt Krishna (A.P.)

1717. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Bank and Central Bank of India have proposed to open branches at Ibrahimpatnam, District Krishna, A.P.; and

(b) the likely date by which a branch of either of the Banks will be permitted to be opened to cater the banking needs of people of Ibrahimpatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) According to the information received from Reserve Bank of India only Andhra Bank had applied for opening a branch at Ibrahimpatnam, District Krishna, Andhra Pradesh. The branch expansion programme for 1982-85 has been completed and considering all the relevant factors, the application was treated as lapsed by Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The centre Ibrahimpatnam with a population of 5370 is at present served by an Agricultural Development Branch of State Bank of India and a branch of District Central Cooperative Bank. It is the assessment of Reserve Bank of India that the centre is adequately banked and there is no need for an additional bank office for the present.

Loss incurred by Singapore Branch of State Bank of India

1718. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Singapore Branch of State Bank of India has incurred a net loss of about Rs. 24 crores during 1984, according to a survey on financial institutions operation conducted at Singapore;

(b) if so, whether any investigation had been ordered into the causes of this Rs. 24 crores loss;

(c) the other branches of the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks in foreign countries which have incurred similar losses and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to cut down such losses and close down the unremunerative branches abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The risk of some debts going bad is inherent in banking operations. Commercial Banks,

including Public Sector Banks, make provision every year out of their annual income for meeting their liability towards bad and doubtful debts to the satisfaction of their statutory auditors and write off the debts which are considered by their managements as ultimately unrecoverable against the provisions so made. State Bank of India has also made provisions for meeting its liability towards bad and doubtful debts including those at the Singapore branch. According to the form of balance-sheet and profit and loss account prescribed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and according to customary practices and usages amongst bankers, particulars of bad and doubtful debts, for which provision has been made to the satisfaction of their auditors, are not to be disclosed. In view of this, information in this regard can not be divulged. Reserve Bank of India has, however, reported that it has already asked State Bank of India to look into the various loan losses incurred at the Singapore Branch and take appropriate action.

(c) A few other branches of State Bank of India and other Public Sector Banks are reported to have suffered loan losses during the year 1984. According to the Reserve Bank of India, these losses have occasioned due to failure of some large borrowers and the problem of externalisation of payments from some countries,

(d) The performance of the overseas branches of Public Sector Bank is continually reviewed by Government and the Reserve Bank of India. Instructions have already been issued to the banks to strengthen the working of all foreign branches and close down unremunerative branches if they are not viable.

[*Translation*]

Fraud committed by General Manager, Punjab & Sind Bank

1719. SHRI SIMON TIGGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of embezzlement of twenty crores of rupees against the General Manager of Punjab & Sind Bank has come to light;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the steps being taken to check such frauds in banks; and

(d) the details of the action taken on the basis of recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India against 13 bank officers involved in the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d). Do not arise.

(c) All banks have an internal inspection machinery and vigilance machinery. The inspectors inspect all branches at periodical intervals. The vigilance machinery of banks also carries out inspections/investigations when irregularities come to its notice. Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank or is brought to its notice, the bank takes up a preliminary investigation and based on the findings, decides to conduct a thorough investigation departmentally or hands over the case to the local police or to the CBI. On the basis of the enquiry reports received from the CBI or the police or internal enquiry, the banks award punishment to their staff who are found to be responsible for the frauds or whose lapses or negligence facilitated the commission of frauds. The Reserve Bank of India also oversees the working of the banks through inspections and returns. The banks have been advised to strengthen the control mechanism including the internal audit/inspection machinery and to make them more effective so as to eliminate the scope for frauds and malpractices. The Reserve Bank of India circulates to banks from time-to-time details of frauds of an ingenious nature and advises banks to adopt necessary safeguards. The cases of frauds are also reviewed in the Boards of the Banks. A Special Investigation Cell in the Reserve Bank of India looks into major frauds, and monitors, follow up action.

Strike by Bank Officials

1720. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bank officers had gone on taken strike on 13 August, 1985;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had warned them not to go on strike; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the officers who participated in the strike and the number of officers who took part in the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) It is a fact that some bank officers other than those working in foreign banks and cooperative banks who were members of the All India Confederation of Bank Officers Organisation went on one day strike on 13th August, 1985 in response to a call given by the confederation.

(b) An appeal was issued by the Government to the officers of the banks not to go on the path of agitation or strike as this would cause considerable disruption to public life and will adversely effect the economy of the country. Banks were also asked to take all the necessary steps to ensure that banks are kept open on the day of strike and essential service is maintained. They were asked to inform the officer of the consequences of going on strike which would include deduction of full day's wage and initiation of disciplinary proceeding against them.

(c) As per the information available with the Indian Bank's Association (IBA), almost all the banks had effected wage cut of the officers who remained on strike on 13.8.1985. As the agitational programme was subsequently withdrawn by the AICOBBO and the matter pertaining to salary revision for officers was amicably resolved, the banks in general did not consider taking any other action against them. As per the information available with the Indian Banks Association, the number of officials who took part in the strike was about 62832.

Complaints of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments regarding Loan Melas

1721. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI G. JANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have complained that their cooperation was not sought in the loan meals organised in their States by Union Finance Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints and the factual position in this regard; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government for such future programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

[*English*]

Proposal for Financing Housing and Leasing by Unit Trust of India

1722. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased be state :

(a) wheather the Unit Trust of India are considering any proposal for direct financing for housing and leasing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Unit Trust of India (Amendment) Bill, 1985, *inter alia*, seeks to enable the Unit Trust of India to transact the business of direct financing of housing and leasing.

Pending Cases of Estate Duty

1723. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Estate Duty cases pending as on 1st July, 1985;

(b) whether it is not possible to introduce summary assessment upto a certain financial limit to reduce the backlog;

(c) whether any such proposal is under consideration of his Government; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There were 26711 Estate Duty cases pending as on 1st July, 1985.

(b) to (d). The Government has already issued instructions introducing a scheme of summary assessment for cases where the returned principle value does not exceed Rs. 3 lakhs.

Regularisation of Service Conditions of Daily Pigmy Deposit Collectors

1724. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to regularise the service conditions of daily Pigmy Deposit Collectors engaged by various nationalised banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). As pigmy deposit collectors are only agents for the purpose of collecting pigmy deposits, they only get their commission as per the contract between them and the bank concerned. Service conditions are only for the bank employees and as pigmy deposit collectors are not bank employees, there is no question of regularising their service conditions.

Crisis faced by North Bengal Tea Companies

1726. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis faced by the North Bengal tea companies because of certain restrictions imposed by Government; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted by Government so far to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Number of Companies and Trusts whose Income exceeded Rs. 25,000/- and number of other Assessee whose Income exceeded Rs. 1,00,000

1727. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies and trusts whose admitted total income as per the return filed last exceeded Rs. 25,000/-; and

(b) the total number of assessees other than trusts and companies whose admitted total income as per the return filed last exceeded Rs. 1,00,000/-.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The number of companies and trusts whose returned income exceeded Rs. 25,000 as on 31.3.1984 are 14,428 and 10,054 respectively.

(b) The number of assessees other than trusts and companies whose returned income exceeded Rs. 1,00,000/- as on 31.3.1984 was 90,101.

Closure of Jute Mills

1728. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of jute mills which are under lock-out or continue to remain closed at this moment in the country, State-wise details thereof;

(b) the total number of workers out of employment due to lock-out and closure; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to get these mills reopened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). At present, a total number of 6 jute mills affecting about 19,700 workers are lying closed/locked-out in the country. Of these, 5 mills affecting about 18,700 workers are in West Bengal and one mill affecting about 1,000 workers is in Assam. (The above figure excludes 3 permanently closed jute mills in West Bengal affecting about 6,900 workers, which are not likely to re-open).

(c) As the subject matter falls within the jurisdiction of the State Governments concerned, it is for them to take appropriate action in the matter.

Objectives behind the changes in Export Policy of Tea

1729. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export policy of tea has been changed during the last two years and the current year;

(b) if so, how many times and the details of changes made each time;

(c) the reasons behind the policy changes made on each occasion and the objectives sought to be attained thereby;

(d) whether such objectives were attained; and

(e) if so, comprehensive chart showing the objectives and achievement both in quantity and value terms ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (e). The tea industry has been characterised in the past by stable prices followed by very short periods of sharp rise and fall in prices. The situation from the middle of 1982 onwards has been unusual.

In 1983, inspite of increase in world production of about 95 million kgs. as well as increase of 22 million kgs. in Indian production, the tea prices went up very sharply. The expectation internationally as well as in

India, was that the high prices would not continue for long and there would be a fall in 1984. To tide over a possible shortage situation in the lean production months of January to March, a ban was imposed on export of CTC tea on 24th December, 1983. CTC is the most commonly consumed tea in India. Tea itself is the cheapest and most popular beverage and has been declared as an Essential Commodity. This had an immediate impact in reducing domestic prices sharply.

The ban was removed in May, 1984 when the new season's production had entered the market and there was an expectation of very high increases in tea production both in India as well as in other producing countries. However, the export demand continued unabated.

The price rise was tolerated upto August when the best export quality tea enters the market. With the end of the quality period, it was decided to re-impose export restrictions to keep domestic prices in check with effect from 3rd September, 1984.

However, care was taken to see that the preannounced target of 215 million kgs. would be reached, all our commitments were met and exports to our major trading partners were comparable to previous year's level.

The 1984 situation was also unexpected because tea production in the world had

increased by 141 million kgs. as compared to normal estimated increases in consumption of the order of 40 million Kgs. An over-supply should have led to a sharp fall in prices. In view of the unsteady behaviour of tea prices, it was felt that exports in 1985 should be regulated throughout the year in such a manner as to ensure steady domestic prices coupled with optimisation of foreign exchange earnings. This was sought to be achieved through a regime of minimum export prices and export quotas on quarterly basis of different varieties of tea produced in different areas. The policy succeeded in maintaining high unit value realisation for exports inspite of very sharp fall in international prices in the first half of 1985. Objective of lowering domestic prices was also achieved.

In view of the developing international surplus situation and falling prices, export restrictions have progressively been relaxed through the year, keeping the original objectives of the Tea Marketing Plan in view. It will be seen that Government reacted flexibly and with despatch to the changing and unpredictable tea situation during this period and the objectives of increasing production, keeping domestic prices in check and optimisation of foreign exchange earnings in the given situation have been largely fulfilled.

Figures relating to Indian production and exports are as under :

	1982	1983	1984	1985	
1. Production (In million kgs.)	561	587	645	660*	*Expected
2. Exports (In million kgs.)	189	209	215	220**	**Targetted
3. Unit Value Realisation on Exports (Rs. per kg.)	18.72	24.79	34.69	33.82	October). (January to

Unauthorised storing of pre-Auction Teas

1730. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaint of unauthorised storing of pre-auction teas and violation of the condition of licences of other warehouses by a registered warehouses;

(b) if so, nature of the complaints;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the complaints;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). A complaint was received in June, 1985, against a registered warehouse in Calcutta in regard to violation of auction rules regarding unauthorised storing of pre-auction teas and violation of conditions of licences issued under Tea Warehouse (Licensing) Order 1980. The complaint was referred by the Tea Board to the Calcutta Tea Traders' Association who are organisers of public tea auctions in Calcutta and also the authority to register pre-auction warehouse. The Association made an enquiry into the matter and took suitable action to rectify the situation.

Youth Parliaments in Schools in Madras

1731. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has collaborated with the Directorate of Education (Schools), Madras for conducting Youth Parliaments in Schools; and

(b) if so, whether this is conducted regularly ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. On three different occasions, the Officers of

the Central Department of Parliamentary Affairs imparted Youth Parliament training to the teachers and Principals of the Schools who were to take part in the Youth Parliament Competitions in Madras City. Two Officers of the Tamil Nadu Government also obtained training in this Department.

(b) The State Governments, except when they seek financial assistance, are not required to send any report to this Department regarding the conduct of Youth Parliament Competitions in their Schools.

However, the State Government of Tamil Nadu claimed financial assistance for two years i.e. 1980-81 and 1982-83 for holding Youth Parliament Competitions in their Schools.

Opening of a Branch of Himachal Gramin Bank at village Pir Saluhi District (Kangra)

1732. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a branch of the Himachal Gramin Bank has been sanctioned for opening at village Pir Saluhi in district Kangra; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which it would be opened and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the Reserve Bank of India and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Cotton lying with Cotton Growers of Guntur and Prakasam District by Cotton Corporation of India

1733. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that more than one lakh bales of cotton are lying with the cotton growing farmers of Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reason why the Cotton Corporation of India is not coming forward to purchase cotton at the maximum support price fixed by Government; and opening new purchase centre for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to help the farmers of Guntur and Prakasam in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) About 1 lakh bales of kapas of long staple cotton were reported to be lying with the farmers in Prakasam, Guntur and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Cotton Corporation of India makes purchases at the minimum support prices fixed by the Government wherever the prices tend to fall below the minimum support level. However, the minimum support prices are fixed with reference to fair average quality of kapas. Suitable deductions are required to be made by the Corporation on account of the quality difference whenever necessary. The Corporation opens new purchase centres after considering various factors such as, proper functioning of the regulated markets, adequate processing and storage facilities, and the expected arrivals of kapas at the proposed centres and the nearby areas.

(c) Steps taken in this regard are as follows :—

- (i) Streamlining of functioning of regulated markets.
- (ii) Strengthening of the CCI's infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Special measures for marketing of unsold kapas stocks of the 1984-85 season with the farmers.
- (iv) Deputing a Central Team to visit different areas of Andhra Pradesh to look into the arrangement made for purchase of cotton.
- (v) Announcement of the minimum support prices of different varieties of cotton for 1985-86 cotton season.

(vi) Authorisation to the Cotton Corporation of India to undertake price support operations.

(vii) Release of cotton for export during the current cotton season.

Assistance to Handlooms to increase its sale in West Bengal

1734. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sponsored any scheme for extending assistance to allow rebates on sales of handloom cloth to make it popular and to increase sales of handloom in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). With a view to popularise and to increase the sales of handloom cloth, the Government of India have been operating a scheme of Special Rebate on the sale of handloom products from 1975-76 onwards. The Rebate which is limited to 20 per cent is born equally by the Central and State Governments. During the year 1985-86, the Government of India allowed the scheme of Special Rebate on the sale of handloom cloth for a period of 45 days plus National Handloom Expos, approved and organised by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. The other salient features of this scheme are as under :—

- (i) Rebate will be applicable only to the sales of handloom cloth, made at the retail outlets of apex institutions of Weavers' Cooperatives/State Handlooms Development Corporations in-charge of handloom development, weavers cooperative societies which have retail outlets and such other state bodies which have been set up for and are involved in the development of handloom sector.

- (ii) The individual States are free to operate the rebate schemes at any time during the year and the period of rebate may be broken up into durations of not less than 7 days each.
- (iii) The rebate periods or days approved must be the same within each particular State. These periods may, however, vary for different States depending on local festivals etc.
- (iv) Central Government's share of rebate on retail sales would be limited to Rs. 50/- in the case of sale of Cotton Handlooms/ Rs. 100/- in the case of Silk Handlooms/Rs. 150/- in the case of Woollen Handlooms or 10 per cent of the value of a retail transaction, whichever is less.
- (v) The rebate will not be applicable on sales of Janta Cloth and readymade garments.
- (vi) The rebate will be applicable only on the sales from regular outlets, i.e. outlets which operate throughout the year, as well as National Handloom Expos, organised and approved by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms.

The above scheme is on year to year basis and the Government of West Bengal is operating this scheme since its inception.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Projected increase in Growth of Export

1735. SHRI DINESH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has projected an increase of about 18 per cent a year growth in exports ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to FICCI's projections, imports during the period 1984-85 to 1989-90, will rise at a compound growth rate of 10 per annum. To match the import bill of this size, in their view, exports will have to increase by about 18 per annum at constant prices.

(b) In the Seventh Five Year Plan, exports are projected to rise by nearly 7 per cent per annum, at 1984-85 prices, in the Five year period (1985-90).

Release of Foreign Exchange to West Bengal Government for purchase of Aircraft for Flying Training

1736. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received any request from the Government of West Bengal for release of foreign exchange for purchasing aircrafts for flying training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed;

(d) the reasons for delay, if any, in releasing foreign exchange; and

(e) the details of foreign exchange released for purchasing aircrafts for flying training in other States during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The Government of West Bengal has requested for release of foreign exchange of Rs. 4,73,450 for import of one Cessna 152 aerobat aircraft for the Flying Training Institute, Behala. It has not been possible to accede to this request due to constraints on foreign exchange resources.

(e) No foreign exchange has been released for purchasing aircraft for flying training to other States during the last 2 years.

**Plan and Non-plan Budget Estimates
and Actual Expenditure of ITDC**

1737. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state the Plan and non-plan budget estimates and actual expenditure of the India Tourism

Development Corporation during the last three years and upto 30 September, 1985 with details thereof head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Information is given in the Statements I and II given below.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
		Budgeted Amount	Actual expenditure	Budgeted Amount	Actual expenditure	Budgeted Amount	Actual expenditure	Budgeted Amount	Actual exp. upto 30 Sept. 85 (Estimated)
Plan Schemes									
1.	Continuing Schemes	190.00	314.70	205.00	117.46	59.00	35.10	76.00	24.65
2.	New Schemes								
(a)	Joint Ventures	75.00	17.89	71.00	75.00	85.00	72.00	30.00	
(b)	ITDC Schemes	833.00*	791.65	227.00	192.34	167.00	147.76	159.00	46.24
3.	Expansion Schemes	35.00	3.17	68.00	11.99	142.00	61.69	165.00	14.57
4.	Additions/alterations to existing hotels/TLs	130.00	82.14	100.00	39.21	160.00	107.73	310.00	118.74
5.	Investment in tourism projects in India and abroad	5.00	—	—	—	2.00	—	—	—
6.	Establishment and expansion of Transport Units	400.00	365.13	35.00	3.00	100.00	96.83	30.00	0.01
7.	NAM/CHOGM/WTO etc.	220.00	157.87@	407.00	332.70	55.00	82.46	—	—
8.	Other Schemes	186.00	155.13	37.00	23.16	30.00	19.18	30.00	1.99
	Total	2074.00*	1887.68@	1150.00	794.86	800.00	618.75	800.00	206.20

* Including loan of Rs. 713 lakhs from Financial Institutions.

@ Inclusive of Rs. 46.57 lakhs incurred on behalf of Department of Tourism/State Governments.

Statement-II

Name of the Scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)					
	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenditure	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenditure	Budgeted Amount	Actual Expenditure
Non-plan						
1. Repayment of Loans	263.69	263.69	332.82	532.82*	349.60	349.59
2. Furniture, Machinery, Computer etc.	21.50	60.75	21.50	42.54	16.40	23.19
3. Civil, Sanitary and Electrical works	18.50	12.63	18.50	8.78	10.00	17.55
4. Advance to employees	35.00	21.96	30.00	16.19	30.00	25.27
5. Purchase of residential flats	—	—	—	—	15.00	31.00
Total	338.69	359.03	402.82	600.33	421.00	476.60
						504.00
						250.47

* Includes Rs. 200.00 lakhs being repayment of loan to the Financial Institutions over and above the revised budget estimates.

@ Includes Rs. 100.00 lakhs being repayment of loan to the Financial Institutions over and above the budget estimates.

Shortage of Small Coins in Gujarat Towns

1738. SHRI U.H. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of small coins and notes in various districts of Bulsar, Vadodara, Surat, Hera and Anand of Gujarat States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether people in towns and cities and particularly in villages are facing enormous difficulties in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken to provide more small coins and notes to them; and

(e) the total number of small coins and notes given to various banks and other distributing agencies in the above districts during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There have been reports about shortage of small coins and lower denomination notes in these districts of Gujarat State.

(b) The movement of coins and notes by the Reserve Bank of India was hampered due to the disturbed law and order conditions in the State during the period March—July, 1985. Tendency amongst the public to hoard coins and notes during the period of shortage have also accentuated the problem.

(c) and (d). Although there have been reports in the past about difficulties faced by people in villages and small towns particularly in Saurashtra region owing to short supply of small coins and lower denomination notes, supplies have been improved during the last one year to all the shortage pockets in the State. By the first week of November, 1985, about 7 per cent of the currency chests/small coins depots in the State have been replenished with notes/coins. A few more small coin depots have also been established in Saurashtra region.

(e) The supply of lower denomination notes and coins made so far, in the Calendar Year 1985 to currency chests/small coins

depots in the districts mentioned in the question is furnished below :—

District	(Value in lakhs of Rupees)		
	Rs. 2/- Notes	Re. 1/- Notes/Coins	Small Coins
1. Bulsar	60.00	20.71	4.73
2. Vadodara	226.00	50.56	8.66
3. Kaira (Excluding Anand Town)	70.00	29.66	6.12
4. Anand Town	30.00	9.92	4.41
5. Surat	122.00	33.47	7.72

Less of Revenue by Kerala due to Abolition of sales tax

1739 SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount Kerala loses annually due to the abolition of sales tax on certain items on which additional central excise has been levied;

(b) whether this has affected the resources mobilisation of the State to meet the Plan expenditure; and

(c) if so, the special assistance proposed to be given to the State to make up the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax is being levied on sugar, tobacco and textiles under Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 in pursuance of the decision taken by National Development Council in December, 1956. The proceeds of additional excise duty are distributed amongst the States in accordance with the principles laid down by the Finance Commission from time to time. The Act does not debar State Governments from levying sales tax on these commodities. It, however, provides that if a State Government levies sales

tax on these commodities, no sum shall be payable to that State as its share of additional excise duty unless Central Government otherwise directs. A Standing Review Committee has been sent up by Central Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission, which consisted of Finance/Revenue Secretaries of States and representatives of Central Government to review the working of the scheme. The sub-Committee set up by the Standing Review Committee, which consisted of representatives of Central and State Governments, including Kerala Government, had studied the problems and modalities of the implementation of decisions of National Development Council taken in 1970 to improve the working of the scheme and submitted its report to the Standing Review Committees which was accepted. Central Government have taken several steps in pursuance of this report to increase the yield from additional excise duty and the position has been reviewed by the Standing Review Committee in its meeting held in June, 1983 and 30th September, 1985 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission in which representatives of State Governments including Kerala Government also participated.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Review of the consequences of New Textile Policy

1740. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new textile policy announced recently has created a new set of problems of unemployment which were not anticipated;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed; and

(c) whether any monitoring review of the consequences of the new textile policy is under way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action has been initiated for implementation and review of the policy on a regular basis.

Policy regarding stringent measures against Companies and Individuals involved in smuggling

1741. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy regarding adopting stringent measures and taking effective steps against companies and individuals involved in smuggling, violations of foreign exchange regulations, fraud and tax evasion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results of the steps taken; and

(d) the steps proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). On the anti-smuggling side stringent action is taken against individuals/companies involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecutions in courts of law. Apart from confiscation of smuggled goods and imposition of personal penalties preventive detentions under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases. Apart from this augmentation of man-power and equipment, reward policy to informers/departmental officers has been also liberalised. Government have also set up a Central Economic Intelligence Bureau to deal with all economic offences including smuggling in a coordinated manner. As a result of the intensification of anti-smuggling measures total value of contraband goods seized during the first 10 months of 1985 is about Rs. 159.13 crores as against Rs. 82.3 crores during the corresponding period in 1984 and Rs. 101.00 crores during the whole of the calendar year of 1984. Further, during the 10 months of 1985, 2084 persons (provisional) were arrested and 623 persons (provisional) were detained under COFEPOSA Act.

For violation of foreign exchange regulations, Foreign Exchange Regulations Act was

reviewed and necessary changes were made in 1973, COFEPOSA Act was suitably amended in 1984 and crash Action Plan was formulated in 1982 and is being implemented in pursuance of point No. 19 of Prime Minister's revised 20-Point programme. As a result of these measures 392 foreign exchange racketeers have been detained under COFEPOSA Act upto October, 1985 and inward remittances of foreign exchange from Non-resident Indians have increased from Rs. 500 crores in 1974 to Rs. 7,000 crores in 1985. Intelligence set up is proposed to be improved consistant with setting up of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.

On Central Excise side preventive checks and excise control on factories have been intensified. Special drives have been launched to bring units in licensing control which are wrongly availing of exemption from payment of duty by concealing the facts. Physical control system has been re-introduced on tyres and man-made fibre/yarn units. As a result of these steps 5355 cases involving estimated evasion of central excise duty amounting to Rs. 189.90 crores (approx.) have been detected during January to October, 1985.

On the direct taxes side all possible efforts to check tax evasion and growth of black money, including administrative, legislative and institutional are being made from time to time. The suggestions contained in the Report of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on 'Aspects of Black Economy in India' are under active consideration of the Government for drawing up long-terms fiscal policy. The steps, so far taken in this direction have shown good results and the number of assessees and the revenue collections have shown upward trend.

Development of Chitrakoot as a Tourist Centre

1742. SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that thousands of people visit Chitrakoot which is said to be the land of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh and where Bhagwan Ram also passed his days of exile; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to develop Chitrakoot and its surrounding areas as a tourist centre ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No proposal has been received for the development of Chitrakoot from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. However, the Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti, a registered society, funded by the Department of Tourism has constructed a Yatrika for 100 persons at a cost of Rs. 14.00 lakhs at Chitrakoot.

Developed Tourist Spots in the Country

1743. SHRI MOOL CHAND DABA : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state the details of the tourist spots developed during the last three years giving :

- (i) the name of the place and State or Union Territories;
- (ii) the details of financial provision made;
- (iii) the amount spent on development etc. yearly figures in each case; and
- (iv) name of the governing body of each of the above spot ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : The allocation of funds for development of tourism is not made on State-wise basis. A statement giving the schemes taken up and the amount spent during the past three years in various States/Union Territories is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library see No. L. T. 1553/85) given in the attached Annexure. The facilities created are maintained and operated by an agency of the State Government concerned or by the India Tourism Development Corporation.

Purchase of Cotton by CCI in Andhra Pradesh

1744. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum price fixed for cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India has not been purchasing cotton at the minimum price in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). The minimum support prices of different varieties of cotton are fixed by the Government and not by the Cotton Corporation of India. The Cotton Corporation of India purchases cotton at the prevailing market prices, and at the minimum support prices announced by the Government as and when the market prices fall below the minimum support prices. The Corporation has already entered the cotton markets of all the cotton growing states including Anbhra Pradesh and its purchases are in progress.

New Markets for Export of Wheat

1745. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that since each country of the world is aiming to be self-sufficient in the production of wheat, India's exports to forerign countries are likely to suffer in the near future; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to explore other markets for Indian wheat ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The world wheat production in 1984 is estimated to have increased to 523.2 million tonnes as compared to a production level of 495.3 million tonnes in 1983. The forecast about world wheat production in 1985 is of the order of 513.3 million tonnes. The current ruling international prices are low and have made Indian wheat uncompetitive. However, every endeavour is being made to explore markets for export of wheat.

Supply of Duty Free Polyester Fibre Powerloom Filament Yarn Sector

1746. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the powerloom filament yarn sector has claimed that in case this sector is given the facility of supply of excise duty free polyester fibre, as given to NTC, they could supply sarees at very low rates; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this offer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production and Consumption of jute made Bags etc.

1747. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of jute made gunny bags, hessian cloth and carpet cloth etc. during 1981 and during 1985, separately;

(b) the names of articles made from jute and consumption thereof in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that jute mill owners have closed their mills of their own and as a result of this the economy of the country is being affected badly; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The production of various items of jute manufactures during 1981 and during 1985 (upto September, 1985) is as under :

Qty. in '000 Tonnes.

Period	Hessian	Sacking	CBC	Others	Total
1981 (Jan.—Dec.)	354.2	738.2	89.9	182.9	1365.2
1985 (Jan.—Sep.)	205.1	509.3	26.4	140.7	881.5

(b) Conventional items of jute products are hessian (both cloth and bags), sacking (mostly bags), carpet backing cloth and various other items like D. W., Tarpaulin cloth canvas, cotton bagging wool packs etc. Some diversified items include decorative fabrics, wall coverings, jute/HEPE blended fabrics.

The consumption of jute goods during 1984-85 was as under :

Qty, in '000 Tonnes

<i>Year</i>	<i>Hessian</i>	<i>Sacking</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
1984-85 (April—March)	124.5	739.1	171.1	1034.7

(c) and (d). It is a fact that several jute mills had closed down for various reasons. As per lock-out and closure notices issued by management of these mills, reasons for close were labour unrest, financial losses, low labour productivity, paucity of funds, high cost of production, lack of adequate market outlet etc. As a result of concerted action by the Government and fall in raw jute prices, many closed mills have since reopen. The total number of closed jute mills has come down from 20 in May, 1985 to 6 mills. (The above figures excludes 3 permanently closed jute mills which are not likely to reopen).

[English]

Relaxation in Credit Policy in respect of Scheduled Commercial Banks

1749. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recent relaxation that has been effected by the Reserve Bank of India in its credit policy in respect of Scheduled commercial banks;

(b) the details of changes brought about by Reserve Bank of India in the export refinance levels from 22 November, 1985;

(c) whether the reduction from 37 per cent to 25 per cent in the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) for non-resident (external accounts) will result in the adjustment of about Rs. 260 crores since a good number of banks are defaulters in respect of statutory liquidity to be maintained with Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if so, the quantum of amount available with scheduled commercial banks as a consequence of this related credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (c). The credit policy was reviewed by Reserve Bank of India prior to the onset of the busy season of 1985 and certain changes were announced on 25th October, 1985 giving mainly following relaxations to scheduled commercial banks.

(i) Scheduled commercial banks were required to maintain an additional cash reserve of 10 per cent of incremental demand and time liabilities according between January 14, 1977 and October 31, 1980. Except for the release of 1/5th of these balances in October-December, 1984, the balances have remained impounded. One third of these impounded cash balances were released on October, 26, 1985.

(ii) The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) for Non-Resident (External) Rupee Accounts was reduced from 37 per cent to 25 per cent with effect from 26th October, 1985 bringing it on par with that applicable to Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts. This would reduce the statutory liquidity requirements of banks by about Rs. 360 crores.

(iii) Banks were provided short terms discretionary refinance of over Rs. 230 crores.

(b) The base for 100 per cent export refinance is being brought forward from the monthly average level for 1983 to that for 1984 with effect from 22nd November, 1985.

(d) The measures indicated in (i) and (ii) above would add Rs. 855 crores to the banks liquidity while measure indicated in (b) above would initially reduce the banks access to export refinance by about Rs. 380 crores. The impact of changes in reserve requirements would provide a gain in resources to the bank. The net gain as a result of these measures would vary from bank to bank depending upon the actual utilisation of refinance size of NRI deposits and as such it would not be appropriate to quantify the net figures for the banking system. The banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India to first use the net accrual of resources to rectify the shortfalls in maintenance of reserve requirements.

Import of Cars

1750. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cars imported during 1984-85; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that the State Governments were forced to purchase these imported cars ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) 2673 import licences/custom clearance permits were issued for import of cars during 1984-85.

(b) No, Sir.

Customer Service in Nationalised Banks

1751. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :
SHRI NARSING RAO SURYA WANSHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken for improvement of customer service in nationalised banks during the year 1985;
- (b) whether any review of the same has been made during the year;
- (c) whether some of the nationalised banks are holding public hearings to look

into the grievances and complaints of the customers, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this process of mitigating the grievances of the customers in the aforesaid manner is being introduced in the branches of the banks in the rural areas also and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Government have taken various steps to improve the functioning of public sector banks with a view to ensuring better service to their customers. Customer Service Centres have been set up at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta for quick redressal of the grievances of the clientele of these cities. Such centres are also proposed at the capital cities of all the States. A study of the customers' response to the functioning of the first Customer Service Centre at Delhi was got done through the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi. The study revealed that 86 per cent of the complainants felt that the scheme was useful.

Besides, the chief executives of public sector have been asked to personally involve themselves in measures to improve customer service and to evolve an effective machinery for redressal of customers' grievances, to determine norms for completion of specific service tasks and display them prominently in the branches for customers' information and to make customer service an integral part of the training programmes.

Banks have been advised to ensure increased customer contact at all levels. Chief Executives and senior bank officers also meet the customers during their tours in both urban and rural areas. They have also been asked to satisfy themselves about the quality of work being done by their branches in rural areas. Also at the Branch level, banks have been advised to ensure that the Branch Managers meet a cross-section of the Bank on an appointed day every month. The action being taken by the banks for improving customer service is being monitored.

[Translation]

Unearthing of a racket of printing fake Currency Notes

1752. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI VISHNU MODI :

SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that racket of printing fake currency notes and dollars was recently unearthed in Bombay;

(b) the number of such rackets unearthed during the last two years and the action taken in regard thereto;

(c) whether Government have tried to find out that an organised gang is operating behind all these cases which has not been unearthed so far; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for complete application of the menace of printing of fake currency notes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Government have no information about it.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[English]

Rules and Guidelines regarding Pay and Allowances and other Service Conditions in Public Undertakings

1753. SHRI H.M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector undertakings under his Ministry have different set of rules and guidelines with regard to pay and allowances and other service conditions;

(b) whether the difference in the pay and allowances of employees of the institutions like Reserve Bank of India, Nationalised Banks, Insurance Corporations, Regional

Rural Banks are being presently considered by the Fourth Pay Commission; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). While the general condions of service (Conduct Rules, Disciplinary Rules etc.) governing the employees of the institutions coming under the administrative control of the Ministry of Finance are broadly similar, the pay and allowances of different institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India, the commercial banks, insurance corporations. Regional Rural Banks etc. are different. The difference is on account of historical factors and the fact that the functions of the institutions and the nature of functions are different. In view of this, there cannot be complete uniformity in the pay and allowance of employees in different institutions.

The Fourth Pay Commission has been asked to examine the structure of emoluments and conditions of service and other aspects of (i) Central Government employees-industrial and non-industrial (ii) personnel belonging to the All India Services, and (iii) employees of the Union Territories and make its recommendations to the Government. The Commission will take into account among other relevant factors, the prevailing pay structure under the Public Sector Undertaking, State Governments etc. and other factors like economic conditions in the country, resources of the Central Government etc. in making its recommendations. The Commission, however, will give its recommendations only on the emoluments and conditions of service etc. of Central Government employees only.

Cash Compensatory Support Scheme

1754. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to make realistic the Cash Compensatory Support Scheme to enable the exporters to improve the competitive position of their products in the world market;

(b) whether objective of the scheme was to enable the exporter to meet competition in foreign markets and to develop marketing competency;

(c) if so, whether the objectives have been achieved; and

(d) if not, the steps contemplated by Government to attain the objectives ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). Cash Compensatory Support Schéme was introduced as an instrument for promotion of exports and to provide compensation for various disadvantages faced by exporters. The Scheme has been reviewed from time to time and is presently valid upto 31st December, 1985. Government have taken steps for continuance of the Scheme beyond this date.

Construction of Tourist Bungalows at Tourist Spots

1755. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa is fast developing a major tourist industry;

(b) whether the State Government have approached the Union Government with a plan proposing construction of tourist bungalows at various tourist spots spread all over the State; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the plan of State Government and the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Geological Survey in Mandla District in Madhya Pradesh

1756. SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times geological survey has been conducted in Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh during the past ten years and the details of the outcome of each such survey;

(b) whether geological survey is proposed to be conducted in Mandla district during this year;

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is possibility of finding gold in the National Park Kanha Kisli near Malaj Khand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) During the last ten years Geological Survey of India has carried out 15 geological surveys in the Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh which include one bauxite investigation, one systematic geological mapping, one geothermal, ten geotechnical and two palaeontological investigations. Possible bauxite reserves of 2.4 million tonnes ranging in quality from Grade II have been estimated. Besides, Geological Survey of India has also rendered advice to 5 Engineering projects during this period. The geological mapping covering 1500 sq. km. area in parts of Mandla, Seoni and Jabalpur districts has resulted in additional data on the stratigraphy of Deccan Trap.

(b) and (c). The surveys carried out so far did not warrant any immediate follow up work. However, two provisional geotechnical items have been included for 1985-86 Field Season Programme, subject to sponsoring from Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

(d) There is no reported primary gold occurrence in Kanha Kisli area. However, the sand of Banjar River flowing through Kanha Kisli area is reported to contain minor particles of gold which is of no economic importance.

[*English*]

Introduction of National Cheque Clearing System

1757. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India proposes to introduce soon a national cheque clearing system with the help of latest micro technology;

(b) if so, the time by which the system is likely to be introduced;

(c) whether adequate steps have been taken to dispel the fear of victimisation due to computerisation and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government also propose to introduce gradual mechanisation of other functions of banks such as up-to-date maintenance of ledgers, reconciliation of transactions among branches, etc., and

(e) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has a programme for introducing magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) technology for mechanised cheque processing in banks initially at the four metropolitan centres to be followed by other State Capitals and major cities. This will also facilitate speedier inter-city clearance (national clearing) of outstation cheques as also local cheques.

(b) According to the programme drawn up, the inter-city clearing (national clearing) will be introduced between Bombay, Delhi and Madras by 31st March, 1986.

(c) In terms of provisions of the settlement entered into between the Indian Banks Association and the Employees' union on mechanisation and computerisation there shall be no retrenchment of staff as a result of introduction of machines/computers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to the 'Action Plan' drawn up about 1000 branches are to be mechanised by 31st March, 1986.

State-wise Foreign Exchange Earnings

1758. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry maintains records relating to foreign exchange earnings State-wise; and

(b) if so, the details in respect of foreign exchange earned by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Agreements with Foreign Countries

1759. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the trade agreements entered into with foreign countries during the last one year;

(b) the commodities to be imported and exported; and

(c) expected gain to the country by these dealings ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) During the last one year, India has renewed Trade Agreements with Czechoslovakia and GDR. The Trade Agreement with Czechoslovakia was signed on 28.9.1984 and became operative on 1.1.1985. The Agreement with GDR was signed on 1.11.85 and would be operative 1.1.1986.

(b) As given in the Statement below.

(c) The Trade Agreements would help increased India's trade with the two countries.

Statement

The main items of import from and export to Czechoslovakia and GDR are as under :—

Imports from Czechoslovakia

Steel and Steel products, seamless pipes, tubes and casings, machine-tools, ball bearings, diesel generating sets, organic and inorganic chemicals, textile machinery, shoe making and leather making machinery etc.

Exports to Czechoslovakia

De-oiled cakes, Tobacco, pepper and spices, iron ore, iron ore concentrates and pellets, cotton yarn, raw cotton, hides and skins, finished leather, jute manufactures, mica, manganese ore, castor oil, railway wagon components, geographic equipments.

Imports from GDR

Fertilizers, machine tools, photo films, rolled steel products, diesel generating sets, printing machinery and other scientific and technical equipments.

Exports to GDR

Shoe uppers, finished leather, iron ore, mica, oil cakes, castor oil, jute manufactures, tea, spices, cashew nuts, tobacco and textiles.

Indian Shrimps Rejected by U.S.A.

1760. SHRI BHOLANATH SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any spurt in the number of cases of detention and rejection of consignments of Indian shrimps exported to United States of America;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Indian exporters black-listed in United States during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to improve the quality of Indian shrimps exported to United States and other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Shrimps from various countries including India are blacklisted by the U.S. for testing.

Year

No. of exporters black-listed

1982-83

81

1983-84

94

1984-85

93

(d) The steps taken to improve the quality of Indian shrimps to United States and other countries include (i) assistance for up-grading of peeling sheds and setting up mini-laboratories in processing plants (ii) intensifying of quality control measures, (iii) training of technologists in processing plants, in US FDA laboratories (iv) modernising freezing plants and (v) dialogue/liaison with US FDA to remove India from Black-listing.

Decline in Price of Cardamom

1761. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of cardamom is declining heavily;

(b) whether this has caused great distress to the farmers;

(c) whether a demand for fixing a floor price for cardamom has been made by the growers; and

(d) if so, the details of the demand and the steps being taken to meet this demand?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :** (a) to (d). Repre-

sentations have been received regarding decline in price of cardamom and consequent need for fixing minimum support price. However, the production and monthly average auction prices prevalent over the past few years are given below:—

(Rs. per kg.)

Month	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85
August	93.41	89.70	146.79	264.86	221.00
September	101.19	109.93	142.67	258.82	233.85
October	102.31	118.78	142.98	310.64	258.59
November	108.60	115.65	162.64	415.85	222.14
December	100.16	108.95	183.88	452.76	206.17
Production in tonnes					
	4400	4100	2900	1600	3900

It may be seen that prices in 1983-84 and 1984-85 remained abnormally high because of reduced production in the previous years on account of drought. With the return of normalcy in production during 1984-85 prices have also fallen in 1985-86 to the normal level prevalent before the drought period.

Chairman, Cardamom Board, has been directed to get a study of the economics of Cardamom cultivation by small growers carried out. Schemes to increase productivity and reduce cost of cultivation are being simultaneously implemented.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Bihar During Seventh Plan

1762. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new branches of nationalised banks in Bihar during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the names of such banks in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The State Governments, including the Government of Bihar, have been asked to identify suitable centres for opening bank branches under the Branch Licensing Policy for the period 1985-90 (co-terminus with the Seventh Five Year Plan). Opening of new branches of public sector banks in Bihar would be considered by the Reserve Bank of India on receipt of the list of identified centres from the State Government.

* India's Export image in respect of Non-Traditional items not satisfactory

1763. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's export image has not been satisfactory in respect of non-traditional items largely due to factors like inferior quality, unsatisfactory service and poor promotional attributes;

(b) whether the prices of India are lower than those offered by some other countries;

(c) if so, whether the views of experts have been obtained in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. India's exports of non-traditional items have shown sustained increase over the years.

Development of Tourism in Rajasthan in Seventh Plan

1764. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided for the development of tourism in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the works likely to be undertaken this year for the development of tourism in Rajasthan; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard in Barmer and Jaisalmer the border districts of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : A total sum of Rs. 138.68 crores has been provided in the Central Sector (the Department of Tourism and ITDC) for the development of Tourism in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) The Department has included the following schemes for the development of tourism in Rajasthan during 1985-86,

(i) Cottages at Ramgarh Lake;

(ii) Tourist Bungalow at Jai Samand;

(iii) Tourist Complex at Jodhpur;

(iv) Accommodation at Talchappar;

(v) Construction of accommodation at Sam Dhani;

(vi) Environmental development and restoration of Pushkar Ghats;

(vii) Yatrika at Ajmer by Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti.

(c) The Central Department of Tourism has not received any proposal from the State Government for the development of Barmer. As regards Jaisalmer, the Department has provided,

(i) Rs. 8.00 lakhs for expansion of Moomal Tourist Bungalow,

(ii) Rs. 3.40 lakhs for development of Gadisar Tank and Sunset Point,

(iii) Rs. 8.00 lakhs for Desert National Park, and

(iv) Rs. 5.00 lakhs for Midway facilities at Pokran during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Expansion of Tundu Unit of Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

1765. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to remove shortage of raw material and hard coke needed for production of silver-zinc and leads at Tundu Unit of Hindustan Zinc Ltd.; and

(b) the reasons for not expending this units.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) The Tundoo Lead Smelter of Hindustan Zinc Limited produced lead metal at 103 per cent of the target during the period July to October, 1985. The overall target achievement for this year till October, 1985, has been 93.1 per cent. Adequate quantity of raw material from the company's mines and coke from the nearby collieries of Coal India is assured to continue to have this high level of achievement. Production of silver, a by-product of lead, has been satisfactory. The Tundoo Smelter does not produce zinc.

(b) The smelter has been expanded to the optimum level.

**Aluminium Research Development
and Design Centre**

1766. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of officers of the Department of Mines enquiring into establishment of Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre has recommended Ambazari Tank Catchment area in Nagpur for the Centre;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been approved by the Public Investment Board;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to establish the Centre; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for setting up of the Centre is yet to be approved by the Public Investment Board.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Uniformity in Bonus to Central Government Employees

1767. SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM :

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that payment of bouns to various categories of Central Government employees is not uniform at present;

(b) if so, the steps proposed by Government to rationalise the various anomalies and to make payment of bonus more equitable; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the employees have been pleading for payment of one month salary as bonus under the Bonus

Act and upward payments wherever measurement of feasibility is feasible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Employees of commercial and production oriented sectors of the Central Government, e.g., Railways, Posts, Telecommunications, Defence Units etc. are paid bonus according to the Productivity Linked Bonus Schemes applicable to their respective organisations. Central Government employees not covered by any of the Productivity Linked Bonus Schemes are paid *ad hoc* bonus.

(b) An inter-Ministerial Committee comprising senior officers of Ministries/Departments of Finance, Railways, Defence, Defence Production and Supplies, Telecommunications, Posts, Personnel and Training and Labour is being constituted to consider the broad uniform framework of parameters and norms which genuinely reflect labour productivity.

(c) Representatations have been received from individuals and staff associations requesting for an increase in the entitlement of *ad hoc* bonus payable to employees not covered by the Productivity Linked Bouns Schemes. Payment of Bouns Act, however, is not applicable for regulating payment of bouns to Central Government employees. The Government have since announced an increase in the *ad hoc* bonus from 18 to 23 days for the accounting year 1984-85.

Maruti Insurance Claims Racket

1768. SHRI BANWARI LAL

PUROHIT :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE

PATIL :

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

DR. B. L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Surveyor of the General Insurance Company (GIC) has recently unearthened a flourishing accident claims racket allegedly involving of insurance personnel an, dealers of Maruti Udyog Limited at Bombay

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action contemplated by Government against the personnel of GIC; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that the practices do not spread to other parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Government had seen the news items to this effect and made enquiries in the matter. The allegations were not substantiated on enquiry. Full vigilance, however, is being maintained.

Setting UP of a Steel Plant in Bihar in the 7th Plan

1769. SHRIMATI PRABHAWTI GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a steel plant in Bihar during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Production of Steel for Reduction of Import in 7th Plan

1770. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the production of steel and reduce the import during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the quantum of steel imported during the Sixth Plan period and the extent of reduction in the import of steel expected during the Seventh Plan;

(c) the target set for the production of steel in Seventh Plan; and

(d) the measures proposed to be adopted to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). As against the imports of about 10.8 million tonnes of steel during the Sixth Plan period, the Working Group on iron and steel set up by the Planning Commission has identified a gap of about 5.8 million tonnes in the likely demand and availability of finished steel in the country during the Seventh Plan period. Imports are therefore likely to be lower in the Seventh Plan period than in the Sixth Plan.

(c) The Working Group on iron and steel set up by the Planning Commission has worked out the projections of saleable steel production during the 7th Plan period as follows :

(Million tonnes)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Integratds Steel Plants	7.64	8.35	8.70	9.65	10.31
Secondary Producers	2.22	2.33	2.44	2.57	2.71
Scrap Rerollers	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
	10.22	11.04	11.50	12.58	13.38

(d) To enable the public sector steel plants to attain their targets during the 7th Plan Period, efforts will be made to ensure adequate

inputs of the right quality. Schemes have been drawn up for better maintenance of public sector steel plants, their modernisation and

for removal of bottlenecks. Efforts are also being made to ensure cordial industrial relations and to inculcate a new work culture in the steel fraternity. The various schemes for plant modernisation will help in providing better blending of raw materials, reduction in energy consumption, improved productivity and better capacity utilisation—all measures which should enable the Indian steel industry to achieve their targets and contain the rising costs of production.

Efforts continue to be made to improve availability of raw materials and supply of power to the mini steel sector and the re-rollers.

100 per cent export units scheme

1771. SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI DINESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme of 100 per cent export units launched in 1981 had failed to make any perceptible impact on the economy so far;

(b) whether about 15 units out of a total of 440 approved units have decided to withdraw from the scheme and if so, whether some more units are likely to withdraw;

(c) whether his Ministry is proposing to re-examine the issue and to find out the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, whether any reasons have been found in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (e). As on the 15th September, 1985, 453 units approved under the scheme of 100 per cent export-oriented units held valid approval letters. 80 such units were reported to be in production and their estimated exports since inception of the Scheme in 1981 upto June 1985 were of the order of Rs. 254 crores.

Certain approved units have requested for permission to get debonded from the

Scheme on various grounds like break-down of their collaboration arrangements for buy-back, etc. Requests for debonding are considered on merit, keeping, *inter alia*, in view the facilities already utilised by the units.

The Scheme of 100 per cent export-oriented units is reviewed from time to time with a view to ensuring efficient functioning of the units under the Scheme. Several additional incentives have been extended under the Scheme like indigenous sale upto 25 per cent of production, against import licences, sale to ONGC against global tenders, etc.

High rates of interest charged by 'NABARD'

1772. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has made high profits of Rs. 150 crores last year;

(b) if so, whether this profit has been made at the expense of farmers who were compelled to pay high interest rates for their loans; and

(c) whether in view of this, NABARD lending rates are proposed to be reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The profits of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the year 1984-85 (July-June) were of the order of Rs. 184 crores.

(b) and (c). The interest rate taken from the farmers on various loans is determined by the Reserve Bank of India. The rates of interest charged from farmers and other small borrowers compare favourably with the interest rates pertaining to other sectors of the economy. Since the establishment of NABARD there has been no increase in the rates of interest charged by NABARD from constituent bankers even though the cost of funds has increased. NABARD ploughs back bulk of its profit into national fund for augmenting its lending operations. NABARD

does not propose to reduce its lending rate for the present.

Trade Agreement between India and Malaysia

1773. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Malaysia during the recent visit of Malaysian-Foreign Minister to India regarding improvement in trade relations between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of intoxicants

1774. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases of smuggling of intoxicants detected during the year 1985 along with details in this regard; and

(b) the special steps being taken to check the smuggling activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a). The number of cases of smuggling of intoxicants (liquor) detected and the value thereof seized during the year 1985 (upto September) is given below :—

<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>(Value Rs, in Lakhs)</i>
270	6.93

Figures are provisional.

(b) The drive against smuggling has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department

remain vigilant against smuggling activities in general and commodities sensitive to smuggling. The trends of smuggling and seizures made are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities, as warranted.

Stringent action is taken against the persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in the Courts. Apart from confiscation of the goods involved and imposition of personal penalties on the persons concerned, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases.

Raids on the Premises on Black Marketeers

1775. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL

PUROHIT :
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD

RAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to conduct raids on the premises of black-marketeers;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any directives in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the number of premises raided in different cities so far and the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not conducting raids ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). On the basis of information collected or received otherwise, Income-tax Department conducts searches in the premises of tax evaders including black marketeers from time to time. During the current financial year (1.4.85 to 31.10.1985), Income-tax Department has conducted 3851 searches and

seized *prima-facie*, unaccounted assets worth Rs. 2220.85 lakhs approximately.

Profit/Loss and Production of Textile in National Textile Corporation

1776. SHRI C.B. GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital invested in the National Textile Corporation;

(b) the year-wise total production of textiles in meters by the Corporation from 1981 to 1984;

(c) the year-wise details of profit or loss account of the said Corporation during these years; and

(d) if losses have been incurred, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Rs. 932.85 crores has been invested in National Textile Corporation mills upto 31.3.1985.

(b) The year-wise cloth production by NTC mills during the years 1981 to 1984 is given below :

Year	Cloth produced in million metres
1981-82	903.50
1982-83	760.50
1983-84	902.00

(c) The year-wise details of profit/loss during the years 1981 to 1984 are given below :

Year	Losses of NTC mills (Rs. crores)
1981-82	71.24
1982-83	78.05
1983-84	137.36

(d) The major reasons for continuous losses of the mills are as follows :

(i) Old and obsolete machinery;

(ii) under-utilisation of installed capacity due to irregular power supply and power shortage, high cost of captive power etc.;

(iii) abnormal increase in cotton prices, particularly from the middle of 1980-81 to 1984-85;

(iv) increase in cost of power, coal, dyes and chemicals, stores and spares;

(v) excess labour force;

(vi) increase in wages/salaries;

(vii) poor work norms and low productivity.

Liaison Offices of India Tourism Development Corporation in Foreign Countries

1777. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has any liaison offices in foreign countries to attract the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the names of countries where these offices have been set up;

(c) if there have not been set up, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has any hotel in an important city like Bombay; and

(e) if not, whether there are any other arrangements for providing information to the foreign tourists landing at international airports about the facilities made available for them by the India Tourism Development Corporation at various tourist centres in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) ITDC has recently entered into overseas marketing and reservation tie-ups for promoting its properties/services with Odner Hotel Representative Limited, Hongkong and Golden Tulip World-wide Hotels, Holland. Through these agreements, booking facilities for ITDC hotels are now available on world-wide basis.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) While ITDC has its own counters at Delhi Airport, the Department of Tourism operates Tourist counters at all the International Airports which disseminate information about tourist facilities made available by ITDC and other organisations at various tourist centres in the country.

[English]

Import of Steel due to dismal Performance of SAIL

1778. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether performance of Steel Authority of India Limited has been dismal for the last six months or so and that Government proposes to import 1.5 million tonnes of steel during the year;

(b) if so, the quantity of steel produced by SAIL during the period April—September, 1985 as compared to the production during the previous six months stating the reasons for the shortfall in production;

(c) the estimated gap between the demand and supply of steel and the extent to which the import of steel is likely to bridge the gap; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to improve the indigenous production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The production of saleable steel at the integrated steel plants of SAIL during April—September, 1985 was 2.61 million tonnes against their production of 2.23 million tonnes during the corresponding period of last year. Production during this

period was 17 per cent higher in 1985 than in 1984 and 98 per cent of the target. The target would have been achieved but for the 38 day illegal strike in Bokaro in April—May. This performance is neither dismal nor unsatisfactory.

Production during the period April—September, 1985 amounted to 2.61 million tonnes against a production of 3.05 million tonnes during the period October, 1984—March, 1985. Targets and production are kept higher in the second half of the year because of better availability of power, coal and other inputs as well as higher labour productivity.

(c) At the beginning of the financial year, it was assessed that in 1985-86 the demand for finished steel in the country would be 11.4 million tonnes and domestic availability was expected to be 9.9 million tonnes, requiring an import of approximately 1.5 million tonnes to fully meet domestic requirements.

(d) To improve the production of SAIL plants efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs of the right quality. Schemes have been drawn up for better maintenance of public sector steel plants, their modernisation and for removal of bottlenecks. Efforts are also being made to ensure cordial industrial relations and to inculcate a new work culture in the steel fraternity.

Opening of Leh-Manali Highway for Tourist Traffic

1779. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Leh-Manali road is closed for tourist due to damage of road in the inner line limit;

(b) whether due to this many tourist who wished to have round trip travel from Srinagar Leh-Manali and vice versa are not in a position to do so resulting in losses to tourist industries of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry will take up the matter with the Ministry of Home

Affairs for consideration for opening of the highway to tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). Part of the road on Le-Manali route is closed for visitors and travel on this sector is only authorised by issue of permits by Ministry of Home Affairs. The restricted area of the road from South of Upshi in J & K upto Sarchu in Himachal Pradesh is closed to tourists without valid permission. The foreign tourists are, however, permitted to visit the Gompas, at Gya, Miru and Rumbtse, lying south of Upshi provided they are in possession of necessary permits from the District Magistrate concerned, travel in group of upto 20 persons and are accompanied by a 'guide' provided by J & K State authorities. The Indian tourists can visit these areas after obtaining permit from the State authorities.

The question of relaxation of entry formalities in the area are constantly under discussion and relaxations to the extent possible are made.

Control on speculation business to curb Black Money

1780. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps taken by the Union Government to control speculation business and to eradicate black money menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI) : Trading in securities in the Stock Exchanges is governed by the bye-laws and regulations of Stock Exchanges. Various regulatory measures such as imposition of different kinds of margins, restrictions etc. are prescribed with a view to ensuring smooth settlement of transactions. Government are keeping constant watch on the functioning of the stock exchanges.

All possible measures to check tax evasion and growth of black money, including legislative, administrative and institutional are being taken from time to time.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Uttar Pradesh

1781. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of branches of different nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these banks are sufficient keeping in view the population of the State; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by his Ministry to open branches of different banks in the State according to the requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI) : (a) The total number of branches of the 28 Public Sector Banks functioning in Uttar Pradesh was 4,150 as at the end of 30th June, 1985. In addition on that date there were 2896 branches of other commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in the State.

(b) and (c). The branch licensing policy for 1982-85 was aimed at achieving a coverage of a bank office for an average population of 17,000 in rural and semi-urban areas in each district. According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India this objective has been achieved in the State of Uttar Pradesh except in four districts.

The branch licensing policy for 1985-90 recently announced by Reserve Bank of India aims at achieving a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in respect of rural and semiurban areas of each development block and eliminating spatial gaps so that a bank office is available within a distance of 10Kms. Reserve Bank of India has already addressed State Governments including Uttar Pradesh to identify centres for opening branches in the light of the above branch licensing policy. The question of allowing more bank offices in Uttar Pradesh will be considered by the Reserve Bank of India on receipt of the list of centres from the State

Government and in the light of the above policy.

[*English*]

Production and Import of Coins

1782. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the production of coins in the mints during the quarter June-September, 1985;
- (b) how many million pieces of Re. 1/- coins were imported;
- (c) whether the shortage of coins in the country has been met with; and
- (d) if not, the further steps contemplated to meet the shortage of coin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI) : (a) The production in the mints at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad during the period 1.6.85 to 30.9.85 was 631.422 million pieces, in various denominations.

(b) Orders have been placed for import of 1000 million pieces of Rupee 1 coins. As against this order, 223.88 million pieces have been received so far.

(c) Though the shortage of coins in the country has been met to some extent, reports of shortage are still being received from various parts of the country. It is expected that with increased production in the Mints and import of coins, the situation would ease around February—March 1986.

(d) The following steps have been taken to meet the shortage of coins :

- (i) Incentive schemes have been introduced in all the 3 Mints.
- (ii) Number of working hours per week per shift had been increased from 48 hours to 54 hours in all the 3 mints.

(iii) It has now been decided to increase the working hours of the Bombay Mint from 54 to 60 hours per week per shift to increase production. It is also proposed to similarly increase the working hours of the Calcutta and Hyderabad Mints.

- (iv) As part of the modernisation of the existing three Mints, 22 new coining presses have been procured. 18 of them have already been commissioned and the remaining 4 are being installed and would be commissioned within a period of 2-3 months.
- (v) The 20p coin has been re-introduced so as to reduce the demand of 10p coins.
- (vi) A second shift in the Calcutta Mint has been introduced with effect from 25.2.85 which would result in an additional production of 360 million pieces per annum.
- (vii) It has been decided to establish a new Mint at NOIDA with an estimated capacity of 2000 million pieces of coins per annum. The new Mint is scheduled to be commissioned by 1988-89.

Import/Export Policy

1783. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Import/Export Policy announced earlier this year is valid for three years;
- (b) the number of amendments notified to this policy till 31 October 1985;
- (c) the details of amendments carried out and the dates of their announcement; and
- (d) the reasons and justification in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). The amendments to Import and Export Policy are notified from time to time by Public Notices, copies of which are available in Parliament Library. Significant amendments in Import Policy and Export Policy have been notified by 14 ITC Public Notices and 15 ETC Public Notices respectively.

(d) The Amendments have been carried out in public interest.

Procurement of Silk Yarn for Supply to Weavers

1784. SHRI SHYAMLAL YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Varanasi is a big centre of silk cloth;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to steep rise in prices of silk yarn, ordinary weaver are facing great financial difficulty;

(c) whether Government have decided to supply imported yarn there;

(d) if so, the quantum of silk yarn likely to be procured and supplied there in 1985; and

(e) when it will be supplied ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Government had received representations about increase in prices of some varieties of silk yarn at Varanasi. The Central Silk Board was therefore directed to arrange for additional supplies of silk yarn by Karnataka Silk Marketing Board to their Depot at Varanasi. In pursuance of this directives, the Board arranged to send 5 tonnes of silk yarn to Varanasi in August/September, 1985. An additional quantity of 2 tonnes has been sent to Varanasi in 1st week of November. Further, the Central Silk Board has already placed confirmed orders for imported 25 tonnes of raw silk for distribution under its Price Stabilisation

Scheme and the consignment is expected shortly.

[Translation]

Loss to India in trade with West Germany

1785. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has suffered a loss of Rs. 800 crores 1984-85 in trade with West Germany as reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' of the 26th October, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per provisional trade figures, during 1984-85, India's exports to and imports from the Federal Republic of Germany were of the order of Rs. 455.28 crores and Rs. 1262.30 crores respectively. In a developing economy like India, with a high incidence of developmental imports, there is perforce a tendency of deficit trade balance with developed countries. India has been consistently trying to minimise the trade gap not only with the Federal Republic of Germany but with most of the developed countries in West Europe, through various trade promotion measures and bilateral negotiations.

[English]

Role of Cotton Corporation of India in improving Cotton Production

1786. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the role being played by the Cotton Corporation of India in the matter of improving Cotton production in the country and marketing and export and other allied matters;

(b) whether the Cotton Corporation has submitted some proposals for Government's consideration aiming at widening of its role;

(c) if so, the details of the salient features of the proposals; and

(d) the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) In terms of the role assigned to the Cotton Corporation of India, the Corporation at present, inter-alia, carries out the following important operations :

(i) Price Support operations in the event of the prices of Kapas/reaching the minimum support price level announced by the Government of India.

(ii) To undertake commercial purchases for meeting the requirements of the mills under the National Textile Corporation and other institutional buyers such as Khadi and Village Industries Commission, State Textile Corporations etc.

(iii) To make purchases for export purposes.

(iv) To act as a canalising agency for the import of cotton.

(v) To extend support to cotton growers of those varieties which have been introduced in the country as import substitutes.

(vi) To develop the regulated markets in those cotton growing areas where the cultivation of cotton has been taken up recently and where the infrastructure requires the Corporation's support.

(b) to (d). The Textile Policy announced by the Government in June, 1985 envisages that the role and functions of the Cotton Corporation of India would be reformulated to include price stabilisation operations in

cotton. Action has already been initiated to finalise the revised role of the Corporation.

[Translation]

Licence to Export Jute

1787. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision regarding grant of licences for the export of jute;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Government propose to implement this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). Export of raw jute is canalised through the Jute Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta. It is allowed under Open General Licences (OGL). The Jute Corporation of India Ltd., has so far been authorised to export upto one lakh bales of raw jute, comprising medium/lower grades, during the current jute season 1985-86.

[English]

Import of Timber

1788. DR. K. C. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of timber imported to India during the last ten months as per the new policy of Government regarding import of timber;

(b) the timber species and names of countries from where imported; and

(c) whether quantity of timber imported is commensurate with the demand of our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). The statistics of import of timber for the last ten months are not available. The

import of timber is on Open General Licence.

(a) the names of countries which are importing iron-ore from India;

(c) Yes, Sir.

Countries importing Iron Ore from India

1789. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(b) the quantum of iron-ore imported by each of those countries in the last three years (year-wise); and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

Import of Iron Ore from India by various Countries : (Qty. in Million tonnes)
(Value. in Rs. Crores)

	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85 (P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Japan	6.794	159.42	6.203	136.70	8.364	185.66
	*8.587	119.70	8.288	120.59	8.232	115.66
	15.381	279.12	14.491	257.29	16.596	301.32
South Korea	2,121	46.65	2.210	44.54	2.379	48.99
	*0.669	9.20	0.670	9.98	0.866	12.63
	2.790	55.85	2.880	54.52	3.245	61.62

East Europe :

Rumania	1.915	24.16	2.544	33.24	2.845	35.26
Hungary	0.024	0.49	0.030	0.59	0.030	0.65
Czechoslovakia	0.117	2.50	0.122	2.53	0.086	1.60
G. D. R.	0.615	13.33	0.716	14.03	0.913	17.41
Bulgaria	0.107	2.32	0.106	2.46	0.100	2.18
	2.778	42.80	3.518	52.85	3.974	57.10

West Europe :

Italy	*0.497	9.24	0.349	6.80	0.760	10.27
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Others :

Iraq	0.098	1.32	0.127	2.05	0.126	2.15
Taiwan	*0.012	0.19	0.119	0.50	0.162	2.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abudhabi	0.093	3.07	—	—	1.014	0.28
Dubai	0.084	1.39	0.096	1.57	0.082	1.51
Malaysia	0.018	0.32	0.052	0.80	0.012	0.21
North Korea	—	—	—	—	0.165	2.97
Pakistan	0.146	3.51	0.131	3.08	0.173	4.20
Saudi Arabia	0.051	0.72	0.124	3.12	0.049	0.86
Jordan	0.022	0.31	—	—	0.007	0.14
Turkey	—	—	0.059	1.14	—	—
Oman	—	—	0.002	0.03	—	—
China	—	—	—	—	0.030	0.75
	0.524	10.83	0.710	12.29	0.820	15.53
Grand Total	21.970	397.84	21.948	383.75	25.395	445.84
M. M. T. C.	12.205	259.51	12.522	245.88	15.375	304.82
*Private Shipper	9.765	138.33	9.426	137.87	10.020	141.02

*Exports by Goan Private Shippers.

This statement excludes export of Kudramukh concentrates.

(P)—Provisional.

Purchase of Foodgrains from India by Ethiopia

1790. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Ethiopia have purchased foodgrains from India during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the total quantum of foodgrains sold to Ethiopia during the above year; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, out of gift of one lakh tonne of wheat to drought affected African coun-

tries, a quantity of 57,117 M. T. is meant for Ethiopia.

Study on the ill-effects of Promotion of Tourism

1791. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any study on the ill-effects of promotion of tourism on a given locality;

(b) if so, the outcome of the said study; and

(c) if not, whether the Union Government propose to consider this aspect and make a study on the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the 7th Five Year Plan it is proposed to set up a Tourism and Environmental Steering Group to commission case studies through State Environmental Departments, Professional Institutions and Environmental Action Groups, on the beneficial and adverse effects of tourism projects on environment and society and thereafter aim at bringing out the guidelines which would enable decision makers to appraise tourism projects for their environmental and socio-cultural implications. However, so far the Steering Group has not been formed and as such no studies have been carried out.

Loss suffered by Kerala for Distribution of Cardamom Pepper Rubber Crop in Flood of 1985

1792. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered by Kerala on account of the destruction of cash crops like cardamom, pepper, rubber etc. due to the floods in 1985;

(b) the total amount demanded by the State for replanting, rehabilitating etc. of the planters;

(c) the total amount sanctioned by the Union Government; and

(d) the amount spent by the different Commodity Boards for the above purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). Government of India on the basis of assessment by a Central Study Team sanctioned Rs. 134.79 crores for relief including Rs. 10.72 crores for agriculture sector. In addition

since the major damage concerning plantation crops was for cardamom, Chairman, Cardamom Board has been advised to concentrate efforts under already sanctioned Cardamom Replantation Subsidy Scheme in affected areas. The subsidy for spraying copper sulphate for prevention of Azhukal disease has also been doubled. State Government had sought Central Assistance of the Order of Rs. 61.26 crores for Agriculture Sector.

Investment in Six Year National Savings Certificates VI and VII Series

1793. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested in the Six-Year National Savings Certificates, VI and VII Series during the first nine months of the year 1985, State-wise, as against the same period last year;

(b) whether Government propose to offer any new Savings Scheme Certificates in view of good response Six-Year National Savings Certificates received from general public;

(c) whether the States get any share from out of the total collection received from the respective State; and

(d) if so, percentage, of the share ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA FOJJARY) : (a) A Statement is given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. 66.6 per cent of the net Small Savings collections in a State are advanced to that State as loan.

Statement

Statement showing the amount invested in the Six-Year National Savings Certificates VI and VII series during January to September, 1984 and January to September, 1985.

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Postal Circle	Amount invested during January to September 1984				Amount invested during January to September 1985			
		NSCs VI Issue		NSCs VII Issue		NSCs VI Issue		NSCs VII Issue	
		Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. West Bengal (a)	189.79	188.79	45.40	44.59		272.89	268.83	52.86	51.25
2. North East (b)	22.10	21.94	1.49	1.42		31.82	31.17	1.45	1.28
3. Bihar	85.74	84.06	5.74	4.76		126.43	121.01	4.57	3.27
4. Orissa	19.88	19.77	1.50	1.42		32.26	31.70	1.61	1.47
5. Uttar Pradesh	230.10	228.36	13.33	12.78		344.36	334.70	15.70	13.83
6. Dehli	73.56	73.16	12.86	12.64		127.83	126.62	11.92	11.65
7. North West (c)	139.96	138.48	8.55	8.31		215.11	209.78	15.01	14.52
8. Jammu & Kashmir	15.56	15.41	0.59	0.62		21.37	20.70	0.15	0.12
9. Tamil Nadu (d)	33.75	33.53	7.07	7.00		56.86	55.55	8.38	8.18
10. Andhra Pradesh	48.36	48.07	5.70	5.51		90.14	88.56	6.30	5.91

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Karnataka	57.30	56.84	8.37	8.27	76.38	71.05	9.49	9.10	
12.	Kerala (e)	8.05	8.00	2.74	2.70	16.22	16.02	3.48	3.31	
13.	Maharashtra (f)	233.97	232.97	44.51	44.22	349.75	343.54	50.57	49.34	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21.40	21.19	1.47	1.25	81.28	79.98	6.98	6.73	
15.	Rajasthan	39.16	38.92	3.26	3.18	59.84	58.94	3.48	3.44	
16.	Gujarat	143.66	142.70	19.78	19.48	201.34	196.94	20.81	20.01	
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Total :										
	1362.34	1352.19	182.36	178.15	2103.88	2055.09	212.76	203.41		

- (a) Includes Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (U. T.)
- (b) Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (U. T.)
- (c) Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh (U. T.)
- (d) Includes Pondicherry.
- (e) Includes Lakshdeep and Mahe (Part of Pondicherry U. T.)
- (f) Includes Goa, Daman and Diu (U. T.)

[*Translation*]

Fall in Foreign Exchange Reserves

1794. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserves have registered considerable fall in the first six months of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Licences to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for Setting up Hotels in Bihar

1795. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourist hotels set up in Bihar and the number out of these being run by Government and private parties separately;

(b) the percentage of licences given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of the total number of licences granted;

(c) whether the Department of Tourism has not provided proper percentage to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in accordance with the Constitution; and

(d) whether Government propose to make special arrangement for giving licences for setting up hotels to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per reservation entitlement ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) There are 15 hotels in Bihar,

which have been approved by the Department of Tourism. Of these, two are in the public sector and the remaining 13 in the private sector.

(b) to (d). The granting of approval to hotels does not involve issuing of any licences to them and depends on the applications received. Hence the question of providing proper percentage to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes does not arise.

[*English*]

Seizure of Heroin Haul From Smugglers in Delhi

1796. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rupees One Crore worth heroin haul was seized from smugglers in Delhi as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of 11 September, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). According to report received, the special staff of the Delhi north district police intercepted a car near northern ridge Chaburia road, Delhi and from the possession of two occupants, seized one Kg. of heroin found concealed in the lining of a brief case. The heroin was purported to be smuggled to Holland. No precise value of the drug seized can be furnished as the illicit market price varies widely depending upon the purity of the drug, local demand and supply position, etc.

A case has been registered under F. I. R. No. 294 on 10.9.1985.

[*Translation*]

Closing of Small Foundry Industries in Gujarat

1797. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the closing down of small foundry industries in Gujarat during the last six months due to shortage of pig iron;

(b) the reasons for shortfall in the production of pig iron;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production; and

(d) whether attention of Government have also been drawn to the fact that the cost to import of pig iron is very high and small foundries cannot use costly pig iron ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No such report has been received by Government.

(b) The actual production of saleable pig iron by SAIL plants of 5.54 lakh tonnes fell short of the target of 6.01 lakh tonnes during April—October, 1985, mainly on account of the industrial relations and other operational problems and at Bokaro Steel Plant during the first quarter of 1985-86.

(c) Efforts were made to increase production by maintaining harmonious industrial relations, adhering to the technological parameters and also by better maintenance of plants, thereby improving the productivity.

(d) The landed cost of imported pig iron is approximately 12 per cent higher than the cost of indigenous material. The Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation have requested for a reduction in import duty.

Five-Star Hotels Run by ITDC in the Country

1798. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of five-star India Tourism Development Corporation hotels under construction at present in the country;

(b) whether Government have stopped construction of five-star hotels in the country recently; and

(c) if so, the details of Government's policy in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) No 5-star hotel of the ITDC is under construction.

(b) and (c). There is no bar on construction of five-star hotels in the country, subject to market demand, financial viability and the availability of resources with the promoter.

[English]

Stoppage of Production in Alloy Steel Mills at Durgapur

1799. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a production stoppage in the Alloy Steel Mills at Durgapur;

(b) the reasons for the losses incurred by the said plant;

(c) if so, whether this is due to workers opposing redeployment of employees;

(d) whether the expansion of the mills has been done without recruiting the necessary staff; and

(e) the steps taken to get workers to resume production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) There was a production stoppage in the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur during the period 3.10.1985 to 29.10. 1985.

(b) The main reasons for the losses are :

(i) Low capacity utilisation due to non-availability of adequate power and coke oven gas.

(ii) Outdated technology, resulting in lower yield and higher cost of production.

(iii) Uneconomic selling prices due to stiff competition in the market for Alloy Steels.

(iv) Higher cost of production due to escalation in the cost of inputs.

(v) High labour cost per unit of production.

(c) Opposition to redeployment has been one of the reasons for high labour costs in the unit.

(d) Bearing in mind the existing level of manning and the need to contain the manpower cost, additional recruitment was not considered necessary.

(e) As a result of intensive discussions at various levels, the production of Alloy Steels Plant has been resumed with effect from 30.10.1985.

Investment in Engineering Industry by World Bank

1800. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has agreed to invest money to boost the engineering industry in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation of funds to the States for development of engineering units established there, State-wise figures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The World Bank have approved a loan of \$ 250 million for the Industrial Export (Engineering products) project. The objective of the project is to assist the Government of India in carrying out its programme to increase competitiveness of export and manufactured products, particularly in the engineering sub-sector. The loan would be drawn during the period January, 1986 to June, 1989. The following are the four components of this Project :—

Loan to ICICI

(i) \$ 160 million to finance the foreign exchange requirements of sub-

projects with \$ 100 million earmarked for engineering sub-projects.

Loan to GOI

(ii) \$ 70 million for financing the foreign exchange costs of credits made to engineering ancillary firms by selected commercial banks for expansion and upgrading.

(iii) \$ 10 million to establish a productivity Fund to finance upto 50 per cent of the cost of activities aimed at improving product quality and plant productivity; and

(iv) \$ 10 million to establish an Export Marketing Fund to finance upto 50 per cent of the costs of eligible development activities undertaken by Engineering Enterprises.

No State-wise allocation have been made.

Scheme for Utilisation of Tourism Potential in Seventh Plan

1801. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been undertaken as to what percentage of the tourism potential in each State has been exploited so far;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the schemes for the further utilisation of the potential in each State during Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Planning for the development of tourism in each State is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. The Central Government has, how-

ever, taken up schemes for development of infrastructural facilities including low-priced accommodation, transport facilities, entertainment facilities, etc. in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Steps are also being taken for the preservation of certain places or areas which are national heritages and for improvement of the infrastructure through flood-lighting of monuments or development of resorts, etc.

Interest Liability towards Non-Resident Account

1802. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total interest liability of Government towards the Non-Resident (Foreign currency) Account in the next three years;

(b) its ratio with preceding three years; and

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to check this growing liability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The interest liability towards foreign currency Non-Resident (FCNR) account for the period 1st July 84 to 30th June 85 was as follows :

<i>US Dollars</i>	<i>Pounds Sterling</i>
58,725,701	20,156,426

It is difficult to estimate with a reasonable degree of accuracy the interest liability on deposits in foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) accounts for the next three years for the following reasons :

(i) inflow into and outflow from these deposits could undergo substantial changes at the discretion of the non-resident depositors.

(ii) Interest rates on FCNR accounts could also undergo changes over the material period depending on international movements in interest rates.

(iii) Non-Residents may deposit funds in maturities of different periods.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are aware of the interest liability on deposits in foreign currency non-resident accounts and it is being closely monitored and watched.

Target fixed for Export of Mica for 1984-85

1803. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by Government for export of mica during 1984-85;

(b) how far this target has been achieved; and

(c) if the target achieved is not satisfactory the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). A target of Rs. 27 crores for export of processed mica during 1984-85 had been fixed. Exports of processed mica (including scrap during 1984-85 are provisionally placed at Rs. 25.62 crores showing an achievement of about 95 per cent of the target. The shortfall in export vis-a-vis the target is due to increasingly greater export of value-added form of mica instead of processed mica.

Introduction of Gujarat Pattern of Package Deal for Jute Industries in West Bengal

1804. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to apply Gujarat pattern of package deal in solving the problems of industries in the country;

(b) if so, whether the same pattern would be applied in relation to the jute industries of West Bengal; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (c). No proposal, having similar features, has been received from any other State.

(b) Does not arise.

Unauthorised Guest Houses in Delhi

1805. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unauthorised Guest Houses functioning in Delhi as on 30th September, 1985; and

(b) the steps Government have taken against unauthorised guest house?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected from Delhi Administration and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Tourism in the Country in Sixth and Seventh Plan

1806. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA :
SHRI R.P. DAS :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent for the promotion of tourism in the country by the Union Government during the Sixth Five Year Plan, State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the proposals and the amount to be spent on tourism by Government during the Seventh Five Year Plan, State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) A statement giving details of expenditure incurred on development of tourism infrastructure in various

States/Union Territories in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) is given below.

(b) Provision of the funds for the development of tourism is not made on State-wise basis. Allocation for Seventh Five Year Plan for Tourism in the Central Sector (Department of Tourism Development Corporation and Hotel Management and Catering Technology Unit) is Rs. 138.68 crores. During the Seventh Plan a selective approach is proposed for development of infrastructure at the centres of tourist interest in consultation with the State Governments, promotion of domestic tourism, development of beach resorts, improvement of facilities for Himalayan trekking and water sports, preservation of national heritage areas, flood-lighting of monuments, development of Buddhist tourism, construction of Yatri Niwases to provide budget accommodation, construction of Yatrikas/dharamshalas at pilgrim centres, improvement in the quality of surface transport facilities, development of wildlife tourism, professionalisation of service in tourism and travel industry, production of quality publicity material and increased overseas promotional efforts and publicity.

Statement

Expenditure incurred during 6th Five Year Plan (1980-85)—Department of Tourism

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount spent (during the Sixth Plan)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.94
2.	Assam	24.08
3.	Bihar	99.96
4.	Gujarat	14.66
5.	Himachal Pradesh	20.56
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	58.62
7.	Karnataka	53.16
8.	Kerala	6.30
9.	Madhya Pradesh	92.64
10.	Maharashtra	15.47

1	2	3	1	2	3
11.	Manipur	15.18	13.	Rajasthan	65.24
12.	Meghalaya	13.48	14.	Tamil Nadu	100.84
13.	Nagaland	16.96	15.	Uttar Pradesh	167.33
14.	Orissa	49.07	16.	West Bengal	69.22
15.	Rajasthan	67.58	17.	Delhi	4289.77
16.	Sikkim	7.00	18.	Chandigarh	13.24
17.	Tamil Nadu	10.62	19.	Pondicherry	13.28
18.	Tripura	7.86	20.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.05
19.	Uttar Pradesh	160.14			
20.	West Bengal	34.92			
21.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	27.74			
22.	Goa Daman & Diu	46.15			
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.00			
24.	Delhi	10.16			
25.	Mizoram	6.00			

Statewise details of grant in aid released to the Institutes of Hotel Management and Food Craft Institutes during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)

Statewise Capital Plan expenditure incurred by ITDC during Sixth Plan (1980-85)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Plan expendi- ture during Sixth Plan (1980-85)	Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Amount of grant-in aid released during the Sixth Plan (1980-85)
1	2	3	1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.84	1.	Chandigarh	2.99
2.	Assam	45.91	2.	Delhi	161.65
3.	Bihar	52.09	3.	Goa	37.60
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.31	4.	Andhra Pradesh	24.25
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	17.86	5.	Assam	5.22
6.	Karnataka	128.90	6.	Bihar	17.94
7.	Kerala	22.30	7.	Gujarat	19.72
8.	Madhya Pradesh	84.12	8.	Himachal Pradesh	9.40
9.	Maharashtra	115.57	9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.62
10.	Meghalaya	0.20	10.	Karnataka	29.37
11.	Orissa	116.65	11.	Kerala	0.22
12.	Punjab	0.39	12.	Madhya Pradesh	12.07
			13.	Maharashtra	64.62
			14.	Orissa	69.01
			15.	Rajasthan	3.00
			16.	Tamil Nadu	62.85
			17.	Uttar Pradesh	17.05
			18.	West Bengal	104.81

[*Translation*]

**Loan Advanced by Indian Bank Branch
of Jale Rural Development Centres
for Installation of Tubewells**

1807. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total loan advanced by the branch of the Indian Bank at Jale Rural Development centre of district Darbhanga (Bihar) for installation of tube-wells for irrigation purposes from 1982 till todate;

(b) whether the Bank has received the subsidy amount on the loan advanced so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the rates of interest charged from different classes of farmers on the loans advanced by banks for irrigation purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Jale Branch of the Indian Bank has till date sanctioned loans for installation of tubewells for irrigation purposes, to 22 borrowers amounting to Rs. 3,56,608/- . Out of this, the amount disbursed has been Rs. 2,65,866/- . The shortfall in disbursements is due to the difference in the depth of the wells as originally proposed and the work actually executed by the borrowers.

(b) and (c). The Bank has claimed subsidy in respect of all the 22 accounts and received an amount of Rs. 81,513/- relating to 18 accounts.

(d) The interest rate applicable on loans sanctioned for minor irrigation purposes is 10 per cent per annum irrespective of the category of farmer.

- [*English*]

Loan to Kerala Agricultural Marketing Federation

1808. SHRI P.A. ANTHONY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has given directive to give loans to the Kerala Agricultural Marketing Federation or to the Kerala State Co-operative Bank for procuring coconut; and

(b) if so, the amount already released and the amount likely to be released in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation is enjoying Rs. 12 crores working capital limit from State Bank of India for trading in various commodities. Recently Reserve Bank of India has allowed State Bank of India to sanction an additional ad-hoc limit of Rs. 5 crores for the period upto end of January, 1986. The Kerala State Co-operative Bank has also allowed a limit of Rs. 5 crores to the Federation. Thus the aggregate credit limit enjoyed by the Federation from the banking system comes to Rs. 22 crores.

**Financial Assistance and Benefits
to Powerlooms**

1809. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the new textile policy announced by the Government, the powerlooms would be compulsorily registered;

(b) if so, whether powerlooms will get all the financial assistance available to the organised mill sector; and

(c) the detailed reasons for such compulsory registration and the benefits to powerloom sector thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). The provision regarding compulsory registration is continued in the present policy with a view to getting the required data, considered essential for healthy development and regulation of powerlooms.

Industrial establishments of power operated looms shall be governed by rules and

assistance programmes as are applicable to industrial units of their size in terms of investment, employment etc.

Discrimination shown to SC/ST Employees of State Bank of Mysore

1810. SHRI NARSING RAO SURYAWANSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "SBM biased against SC/ST" appearing in the Deccan Herald, Bangalore of the 25 September, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that All India State Bank of Mysore Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribes Employees' Association has alleged step-motherly attitude by State Bank of Mysore towards Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe employees in appointments, training Promotions and in giving residential facilities etc ; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Government had received a circular representation dated 25th August, 1985 from All-India State Bank of Mysore SC/ST Employees Association (Registered) Bangalore alleging that State Bank of Mysore is not following the Government guidelines relatins to reservations for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The grievances of the SC/ST employees of State Bank of Mysore relate mainly to promotions from clerical cadre to officers cadre in Junior Management Grade Scale-I. The matter was referred to State Bank of Mysore for furnishing a report in this regard. State Bank of Mysore has reported that according to its promotion policy, the process of selection involves written test and interview. In the written test, those who secure minimum marks prescribed for general candidates and reserved category employees (with relaxation in marks) are called for the interview in accordance with the promotion policy. In terms of the policy, minimum marks is stipulated separately for general category and reserved category employees (with relaxation) for the

interview. Relaxation is also provided to the reserved category employees in regard to age, service, and number of chances to appear for the written test. To fill up the backlog of vacancies, an exclusive written test was conducted for SC/ST candidates on 23.6.85. Out of 79 candidates who took the written test, 10 candidates passed under 'A' group and one candidate passed under 'B' group. Interviews were arranged on 23.8.85 for the successful candidates. The All India State Bank of Mysore SC/ST Employees' Association give a memorandum to the bank demanding that all the candidates who are eligible for the interview should be promoted without interview as there is a backlog of vacancies and the number of candidates appearing for the interview are less than the number of vacancies. As this demand was in violation of the promotion' policy, it was not considered and all the candidate boycotted the interview. This was the subject matter of the news item under reference.

The bank has further reported that guidelines issued by Government in regard to reservation of posts are being followed. Pre-promotional training facilities are arranged and also residential facilities are provided during training period. Efforts are also being made for conducting one more exclusive test for reserved category for clearing backlog.

Sugar on Loan to Bangladesh

1811. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give sugar on loan to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the total tonnes of sugar proposed to be sent to Bangladesh; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). A proposal was received from Bangladesh for diversion on replacement basis of one or two shiploads amounting to 12,000 tonnes—24,000 tonnes of sugar to meet their immediate requirements. Since no agreement could be reached between STC and Bangladesh authorities on commercial terms of

such a transaction, the deal could not be finalised.

**Memorandum on Closing Down of
Hindustan Steel Works
Construction Ltd.**

1812. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to close down the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited as reported in the 'Statesman' of Calcutta of 14 October, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers and employees working in this Company;

(d) whether a memorandum was submitted by the employees to Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the important points mentioned in the said memorandum; and

(f) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited has been losing heavily for the last several years, its cumulative losses upto 31.3.1985 being of the order of Rs. 80 crores. Government is examining various proposals to tackle the situation.

(c) The total manpower of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited as on 31.3.1985 was 23,312 employees comprising :

Workers	:	17,050
Non-Executives	:	4,406
Executives	:	1,856

(d) Yes, Sir. A memorandum on viability of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited was submitted by the Joint Committee of HSCL employees to the Government on 10.10.1985.

(e) The memorandum contains the following important points :-

(i) Historical background and genesis of the problems of HSCL.

(ii) Placement and mobility of labour.

(iii) Non-award of works to HSCL.

(iv) Outstanding dues payable to HSCL.

(v) Losses in foreign works.

(vi) Existing financial structure and constraints.

(vii) Suggestions to overcome the above problems.

(f) The Government is actively considering the memorandum and is examining various alternatives on the future of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL).

Change in Exemption Limit of Excise Duty for S.S.I. Units

1813. SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that exemption limit of excise duty for T.I. 68 items for small scale industries units was Rs. 30 lakhs in the year 1980-81 to 1984-85, which has been reduced to Rs. 20 lakhs in the present financial year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for S.S.I. units, excise formalities are very cumbersome, time consuming and extremely difficult and ultimately affecting the production and economy of the S.S.I. units badly;

(c) whether Government propose to the desirability of enhance the exemption limit from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 75 lakhs in view of the price rise during these years or at least restore the previous limit of Rs. 30 lakhs; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Small scale units manufacturing goods falling under Item 68 of the Central Excise Traffic are exempted from licensing control upto a value of clearance of Rs. 16 lakhs. In case the value of clearance of such units

exceeds Rs. 16 lakhs but does not exceed Rs. 20 lakhs, they have to follow only a simplified procedure. With these simplifications it is expected that the small scale units will not face any undue hardship for complying with the formalities.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present either to restore the earlier full exemption limit of Rs. 30 lakhs or to increase it to Rs. 75 lakhs under consideration of the Government. The liberalisation effected in the small scale scheme in the budget of 1985 provides adequate protection as well as incentives to growth for the small scale units.

Difficult Foreign Exchange Position

1814. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficult foreign exchange position now due to large drain on it because of liberal import policy newly adopted;

(b) whether this has resulted in adversely affecting our balance of payments position; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take in this regard to reverse the trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The figures of foreign exchange reserves available upto the end of October, 1985, do not suggest a deterioration in the overall foreign exchange position. The balance of payments situation is kept under constant review and measures are undertaken, as necessary, to maintain its viability.

[Translation]

Bank Credit involved in Buffer Stock of Food Grains

1815. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of bank credit involved in the buffer stock of food grains and the amount of annual interest due on this money;

(b) whether commercial banks will realise this amount with interest from the Food Corporation of India, etc.;

(c) if so, the total amount of money that will be given to the commercial banks by the Food Corporation of India, etc.; and

(d) the amount of loss to be suffered by the Food Corporation of India, etc. together with details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Aggregate outstandings under credit limits authorised by scheduled commercial banks to State Governments and Food Corporation of India for food procurement operations, amounted to Rs. 5791 crores as on 25th October, 1985. No separate cash credit limit is sanctioned to meet the cost of buffer stocks. The food credit limits authorised to the Food Corporation of India and State Governments are against the security of food grain stocks hypothecated to the banks and also against Government of India/State Government guarantees in lieu of margin. As such, the food credit provided by banks is fully secured. The interest amount for one year at the rate of 14 per cent on the level of food credit outstandings as on 25.10.85 works out to approximately Rs. 811 crores.

(d) The Food Corporation of India purchases foodgrains for the Central Pool at the procurement prices fixed by the Government of India and issues the same for the public distribution system at the issue prices fixed by the Central Government from time to time. The difference between the issue price and the economic cost (cost of procurement, movement, storage and distribution of food grains) is paid to the Corporation by the Government of India by way of subsidy. The Food Corporation of India is also reimbursed by the Government of India for the carrying charges in respect of the buffer stock held by it on behalf of the Government of India.

Decline in Tourism Growth Rate

1816. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether tourism growth rate has been declining continuously for the past many years;
- (b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the causes of this decline;
- (c) if so, whether some concrete steps have been taken by Government to increase this rate; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) (a) and (b). No, Sir. The growth rates in foreign tourist arrivals, excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, during the past five years are as given below :-

Year	Growth rate (%)
1980	4.6
1981	6.6
1982	0.8
1983	2.9
1984	3.6

The economic recession in most of the tourist generating countries towards the beginning of 1980s and the adverse media coverage to some events in India during 1984 have affected foreign tourist movements.

(c) and (d). The steps taken by the Government to increase tourist traffic in the country include re-orientation of publicity campaign giving emphasis on consumers advertising, stepping up of public relations with tour operators and travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, expansion of internal transport systems, development of infra-structure for holiday tourism in addition to cultural tourism etc.

[English]**Seizure of Gold Biscuits and Foreign Currency in Bombay**

1817. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press reports appearing in the 'Times of India' of 14th September, 1985 where it has been stated that gold biscuits worth Rs. 3.40 crores as well as Indian and foreign currency valued at Rs. 1 crore have been seized in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether any arrest has been made in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Three persons found involved in this case have been arrested under the Customs Act. Gold, foreign currency and Indian currency totally valued at Rs. 4.77 crores have also been seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

Annual General Meeting of World Bank and IMF held in Seoul in October 85

1818. SHRI ANAND SINGH :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 40th Annual General meeting of the World Bank and the IMF was held at Seoul in October this year;

(b) if so, the specific subjects discussed therein; and

(c) the outcome thereof in so far as it relates to India and the Indian Sub-continent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subjects discussed were : Annual Report, Financial statements and Annual Audit, Allocation of Net Income, Administrative Budget for FY-1986, Annual Report of Development Committee, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and Selection of officers and Joint processes Committee for 1985-86.

(c) There was no specific outcome in so far as it relates to India and the Indian sub-continent.

Effect of Loans Given to states Instead of Overdrafts

1819. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to solve the problem of overdraft Government have given 1,628 crores of loans to States; and

(b) if so, the effect of it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) In order to help the States clear their overdrafts, the Government of India provided Rs. 1628 crores as medium term loans to them on 1st October, 1985. Since then no State has been in overdraft for more than 7 continuous working days till 21st November, 1985, the latest date for which the overdraft position of States is available from the Reserve Bank of India.

Crisis in tea Export Trade

1820. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of crisis in tea export trade;

(b) if so, whether any corrective measures have been taken to boost the demand of Indian tea in foreign market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if no such measures have been taken in the past whether the same will be taken now; and

(e) if not the reasons for not doing so ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (e). No, Sir. Although surplus world supplies have lowered international prices by about 50 percent India has been able to maintain unit value realization on exports at near last years high levels. Government provides incentives in the form of subsidies for replanting tea, assistance for brand promotion and warehousing abroad as well as cash compensatory support on value-added teas. Tea Board also undertakes promotional campaign through its offices abroad.

Survey of Security Arrangements in Banks by Delhi Police

1821. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any follow-up action has been initiated on the survey of the security arrangements in different banks made by the Delhi Police recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the time by which it will be done; and

(d) if no action is proposed to be initiated, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) to (d) A meeting of the Local Heads of the public sector banks in Delhi, the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Commissioner of Police for Delhi, was held on 7th October, 1985 to discuss the question of strengthening the security arrangements in banks, branches in Delhi. The following instructions to banks were reiterated :

(i) to observe weekly off days in branches coinciding with the closing day of the market in the area;

(ii) each branch should have an armed security guard;

(iii) each bank branch should have a collapsible gate at the entrance

properly chained and locked to allow on try/exit to only one person at a time;

(iv) there should be self-locking wire meshed cabins for Cashiers;

(v) each bank branch should have a proper alarm system which should not be feeble but should be aloud one;

(vi) there should be periodical checking of security arrangements by senior officials of the banks.

Most of the branches of banks in Delhi have implemented the above security arrangements and a few of them which do not have these are taking steps to provide the same.

Fall in Production of Tea in Kerala

1822. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the fall in production of tea per hectare in Kerala during the last two years; and

(b) the percentage of tea production per hectare in Kerala as compared to the production from the rest of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The figures for productivity of tea per hectare in Kerala are as under :

1982	1983	1984
1374	1273	1661

Productivity has risen significantly in 1984.

(b) The production per hectare in Kerala was 1661 kgs. in 1984 as compared to 1629 kgs. per hectare for all India.

Marketing Development Assistance to Apparel Export Promotion Council

1823. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have frozen the marketing development assistance to the Apparel Export Promotion Council; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Apparel Export Promotion Council was receiving grant from Marketing Development Assistance for their Code activities only. This assistance has been withdrawn w.e.f. 1st April, 1985, for the failure of the Council to comply with the guidelines issued for carrying out certain amendments in their Articles of Association.

Setback to Export of Engineering Goods, Fish Products Gems and Jewellery

1824. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports of engineering goods, fish products, gems and jewellery have suffered setback during 1984-85;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to boost their exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) According to the provisional data available, export of engineering goods and marine products were higher during 1984-85 as compared to 1983-84. The exports of gems and jewellery were, however, slightly lower during 1984-85.

(b) According to the Export Promotion Council figures, exports of gems & jewellery items during 1984-85 amounted to Rs. 1304.90 crores as against Rs. 1324.45 crores in 1983-84. There was a very substantial growth in the exports of gem & jewellery in 1983-84 which could not be maintained during 1984-85, particularly due to recessionary conditions in the international market.

(c) Steps being taken to boost the export of gems & jewellery, inter-alia, include :

1. Improvement in technology by facilitating imports of tools and machinery at reduced duty;
2. Imparting training to Artisans;
3. Product and market diversification; etc.

Export of Molasses

1825. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of molasses exported during 1983-84 and 1984-85;
- (b) whether the sugar industry is able to meet the internal demand of molasses by the alcohol industry; and
- (c) if not, the justification for exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The total quantity of molasses exported during 1983-84 and 1984-85 are as follows :—

Year	Quantity (in lakh MT)	Value (in Rs. crores)
1983-84	5.04	26.79
1984-85	2.49	12.36

(b) The sugar industry was in a position to meet the requirements of the alcohol industry upto the alcohol Year 1983-84 (Dec.-Nov.). Subsequently, the Central Molasses Board in its meeting on 16.3.1985 had assessed the availability of molasses being short of its demand by about 15 lakh tonnes for the alcohol year 1984-85.

(c) In view of the prevailing shortfall, no new permission for export of molasses has been given by government during the current alcohol year.

Computerised Cheques Processing Facilities in Metropolitan Cities

1826. SHRI SHRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have fixed a target date to complete computerised cheques processing facilities in all the metropolitan cities;
- (b) if so, the time by which such computerised cheques facilities would be provided in the metropolitan cities; and
- (c) the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has a programme for introducing Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MIGR) technology for mechanised cheque processing in banks initially at the four metropolitan centres to be followed by other State Capitals and major cities. This will also facilitate speedier inter city clearance (national clearing) of outstation cheques as also local cheques. According to the programme drawn up, the inter city clearing (National clearing) will be introduced between Bombay, Delhi and Madras by 31st March, 1986. According to this programme, Calcutta is also proposed to be linked upto inter city clearing by the end of June, 1986.

Cheques and other instruments which pass through clearing have been standardised. The banks have been advised to issue Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) cheques accordingly and a large number of banks have already started issuing such cheques in Bombay, Delhi and Madras.

Survey of Urban Property

1827. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to conduct a door-to-door survey of urban property as one of the measure to unearth black money in the country;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the other steps being taken or proposed to be taken to unearth the black money in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). In the absence of statutory backing there has been no door-to-door survey of residential premises. However, during the period April to August 1985, reports for which have so far been received, 60643 business premises were surveyed. The suggestion of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in their report on 'Aspects of Black Economy in India' for providing statutory backing to door-to-door survey is under active consideration of the Government. All possible measures to check tax evasion and growth of black money, including administrative, legislative and institutional, are being taken from time to time.

Import of Polyester and Filament Yarn

1828. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether polyester any nylon filament yarn is being imported to meet the demand of the country;

(b) if so, the quantity imported and the amount spent during the last three years, yearwise;

(c) the names of the countries from where the yarn was imported;

(d) the approximately annual production of the filament and nylon filament yarns;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the production of polyester and nylon filament yarns in the country to meet the demand; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). A Statement is given below.

(c) The main countries are : Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

(e) and (f). Applications for fresh licences are considered on merits as and when received.

Statement

YEAR	P.F.Y.		N.F.Y.	
	Qty. (in tonnes)	Value in rupees lakhs	Qty. (in tonnes)	Value in rupees lakhs
1982-83	13350	3105	520	184
1983-84	6181	1309	2020	615
1984-85	1378	496	503	187

Answer of Part (d) of the Question. Production of various Filament is as under (in tonnes)

Year	P.F.Y.	N.F.Y.	V.F.Y.	A.F.Y.
1982-83	24295	25485	33185	1740
1983-84	47929	30402	35415	1333
1984-85	55223	34535	32949	707

Remedial Steps to contain Losses in NTC

1829. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the losses sustained by the National Textile Corporation since its inception as per latest information available with Government; and

(b) the reasons for the continuous losses and how it is proposed to make the N.T.C. a viable proposition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) National Textile Corporation has incurred losses totalling about Rs. 670 crores from 1974-75 to Sept., 1985.

(b) The major reasons for continuous losses of the mills under NTC are as follows :—

- (i) Old & Obsolete machinery;
- (ii) under-utilisation of installed capacity due to irregular power supply & power shortage, high cost of captive power etc.
- (iii) abnormal increase in cotton prices, particularly from the middle of 1980-81 to 1984-85;
- (iv) increase in cost of power, coal, dyes & chemicals, stores and spares;
- (v) excess labour force;
- (vi) Increase in wages/salaries;
- (vii) poor work norms and low productivity.

Some of the important steps taken/being taken, within the limited resources, to improve the performance of the mills under NTC are as under :—

- (i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels.
- (ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for such losses,

(iii) to overcome the power shortage, self-generating capacity has been provided;

(iv) selective modernisation programme have been adopted for result-oriented gains; for best utilisation of limited resources;

(v) cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost of production at all levels;

(vi) efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administrative expenses;

(vii) workers' participation scheme in the management is being encouraged to achieve higher productivity;

(viii) the performance of NTC is being monitored closely to reduce costs, improve efficiency and quality.

Increase of Target of Production of Controlled Cloth and Janata Cloth

1830. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to raise the production of controlled cloth and janata cloth against the target of 650 million sq. metres fixed earlier to cater to the needs of poor section of the population, if so, by how much;

(b) whether it is a fact that while on the one hand, stock of controlled cloth has piled up for want of buyers, on the other hand, there is large segment of unsatisfied demand for such cloth;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a state of affairs;

(d) the quota for the production of such cloth assigned to the National Textile Corporation and the various mills in the private sector; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure distribution of controlled cloth in the various States and cover the largest population of poor people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Government have decided to raise the target of production of controlled cloth and Janta cloth from 650 million sq. metres to 700 million sq. metres during the current financial year.

(b) There are no reports of piled up stocks of controlled cloth either from NTC mills or the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation which is the distributing agency.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the existing controlled cloth scheme, controlled cloth is being produced entirely by the National Textile Corporation Mills. The target for the production of controlled cloth allotted to these mills for the year 1985-86 is 280 million sq. metres.

(e) The distribution of controlled cloth is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, with a view to streamline its distribution and prevent diversion, the State Governments have been requested to give adequate publicity regarding arrivals of controlled cloth with retailing agencies as well as to introduce proper systems of inspection and verification. The State Governments have also been requested to strengthen and expand the distribution arrangements especially in the rural areas.

India's proposal to Phase out India for purposes of receiving Concessional—AID

1831. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : SHRI ANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Development Authority propose to phase out certain development countries like India for purposes of receiving concessional aid under the IDA's programme for helping developing countries in the matter of planned economic development;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Gold Biscuit Seized at Jogeswari Bombay

1832. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold biscuit of foreign marking worth Rs. 3.40 crores and Indian foreign currency worth Rs. one crore were seized by the Revenue Intelligence Authorities at Jogeswari in Bombay on 13 September, 1985;

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigation in regard to the said seizure;

(c) whether any smuggling racket has been detected to be active behind the seizures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Bombay Zonal Unit, searched the premises at No. 10, Patel Building, Station Road, Jogeshwari (West), Bombay, on 13.9.1985 and seized 1400 gold biscuits of foreign origin, weighing 14,000 tolas, valued at Rs. 3.35 crores, foreign currency worth Rs. 1.21 crores and Indian currency worth Rs. 21 lakhs. The total value of the seizures amounts to Rs. 4.77 crores. In this connection, three persons were arrested.

As the case is still under investigation, it will not be expedient to disclose further details at this stage.

Export of Foodgrain to earn Foreign Exchange

1833. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : SHRI MOHANBAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations has emphasised the need to earn foreign exchange for the country by export of foodgrains;

(b) whether the country has surplus foodgrains and in a position to export;

(c) if so, Government policy in this regard;

(d) the total quantity of foodgrains likely to be exported; and

(e) the names of the countries to which foodgrains are proposed to be exported ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Export of Basmati Rice is allowed under Open General Licence. Export of wheat and wheat products; Barley, Maize, Jowar, Bajra and Ragi is allowed subject to conditions specified from time to time such as ceiling, MEP etc. Export non-basmati rice is not allowed.

(d) and (e). It is not possible, at this stage, to indicate the quantum of foodgrains and the names of the countries, that the trade would be able to export during the current financial year. This would depend on the international trading conditions. However, contracts have been concluded for sale of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat to USSR, and 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Vietnam as commodity loan in addition to gift of one lakh tonnes of wheat to drought affected African countries.

Indian Coffee Export Quota in International Coffee Organisation

1834. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Coffee export quota in the International Coffee Organisation has been reduced in the

current year contrary to the expectations of higher quota; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof as well as the quantity reduced while comparing it to that of last year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) India's annual coffee export quota for the coffee year 1985-86 is 1.23 per cent of the global quota, which is the same as it was last year. As on date, India's export quota is 41907 tonnes for the coffee year 1985-86 as compared to 41,403 tonnes last year.

(b) Does not arise.

Deteriorating Financial Position of Developing Countries

1835. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have expressed India's concern at the deteriorating financial position of developing countries and pointed out that many such countries have been forced to undertake 'harsh adjustment efforts' ;

(b) whether India has spoken about India's plan of action designed to ease the world economy; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the suggestions India has put forward and made to the World Bank while participating in the conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the April 1985 meeting of the Interim Committee India had suggested a minimum concrete programme of action with the following major elements :

(i) a roll-back in protectionist barriers in trade;

(ii) a large increase in flow of ODA to developing countries;

(iii) a substantial new allocation of SDRs; and

(iv) harmonisation of policies and beginning of restructuring of the international monetary and financial system. In the Seoul meeting held on 6th October, 1985 India reiterated the need for implementing the programme of action for sustained recovery of the world economy.

[Translation]

Procurement Price of Raw Jute

1836. DR. A.K. PATEL :

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from the jute-producing States that jute cultivations are not getting remunerative

prices of their jute and lot of jute is lying unsold with them;

(b) the procurement price of jute this year as well as of the last year; and

(c) immediate steps being taken to give relief to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Due to harvesting of a bumper crop of raw jute this season, prices of raw jute are under severe pressure and they have declined to support level in almost all up-country markets. The Jute Corporation of India, in association with State Co-operatives, is purchasing raw jute at minimum statutory prices fixed by the Government on a more massive scale than ever before.

(b) and (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(b) State-wise range of procurement prices of raw jute procured by Jute Corporation of India during the current jute season 1985-86 and the previous jute season 1984-85, is as under :

Price in Rs. per quintal

State	Grade	1984-85		1985-86	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Assam	W-5	575.00	920.00	215.00	240.00
Bihar	W-5	600.00	910.00	225.00	251.00
Meghalaya	Mesta BOT	650.00	820.00	189.00	189.00
Orissa	W-5	595.00	965.00	231.00	256.00
West Bengal	TD-5	612.50	980.00	233.50	273.00
Andhra Pradesh	Bimli BOT	570.00	800.00	201.00	201.00

(c) With a view to protecting the interests of jute growers, the following steps have been taken :

(i) The Jute Corporation of India has been directed to undertake large scale purchases of raw jute at

minimum statutory prices fixed by the Government;

(ii) Sufficient credit has been placed at the disposal of Jute Corporation of India for undertaking price support operation;

(iii) A directive has been issued on 6.9.85 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute up to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

(iv) The Jute Corporation of India has been permitted to export a limited quantity of raw jute.

[English]

Foreign Exchange earned through Export to Malaysia

1837. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the different items presently exported to Malaysia;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby in last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to diversify export to Malaysia; and

(d) if so, the details of the programme of Government in 1985-86 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Major items of export to Malaysia are spices, fruits, and vegetables, animal feed-stuff, cotton, iron ore, chemicals and allied products, textile yarn, fabrics and related products, non-metallic, minerals metal manufactures machinery and transport equipment, cinematographic films etc.

(b) Export figures for exports to Malaysia during last three years is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

1982-83	58.78
1983-84*	60.48
1984-85*	68.94

(*figures for 1983-84 and 1984-85 are provisional)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During 1985-86 exports to Malaysia will be diversified through Project exports and exports of manufactured items through exchange of delegations and greater interaction at the official and businessmen level.

Variation in Credit Deposit Ratio in West Bengal

1838. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the credit-deposit ratio varies in west Bengal from a little over 74 per cent in Calcutta to as low as 26 per cent in some districts of the State and even for the Calcutta metropolitan area, the ratio is much lower than that of the other three metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps envisaged to improve the credit absorption capacity of the State particularly the development of entrepreneurial programmes in the districts to encourage investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The District-wise Credit : Deposit Ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of December 1984 show that this ratio in West Bengal varies from 18.9 per cent for 24-Parganas district to 74.6 per cent for Calcutta. The Credit : Deposit Ratio for Calcutta is less than that for Madras (118.4 per cent) and Bombay (110.9 per cent), while it is higher than that of Dehli (59.8 percent).

The credit deployment in a region depends upon factors like infrastructural facilities, availability of suitable schemes, reasonable recovery expectations, general state of the development of the economy etc. The level of economic activities in turn is influenced by several factors such as availability of facilities like transport and power, proximity to sources of raw material, access to marketing and local entrepreneurship etc.

However, the banks have been advised to ensure that wide regional disparities in credit deployment are avoided. The imple-

mentation of district credit plans and annual action plans are expected to increase the flow of credit to deserving areas.

Task force was constituted by the State Level Bankers' Committee of West Bengal for in depth study of the causes of low credit : deposit ratio in the State and to suggest measures to improve it. The Task Force has suggested certain measures for development of agriculture and small scale industries. These include launching of intensive campaigns in the irrigation command areas prior to Kharif and Rabi seasons, utilisation of services of voluntary organisations in promoting disbursement of production credit, ensuring timely adequate supply of inputs by extension agency, exploration of possibilities of development of horticulture and plantation crops, dry land farming, social and commercial forestry, dispersal of industries in the backward and under-developed areas, extension of single window system of extending assistance to all the districts, setting up of power-based small scale industries in areas where power is assured by the West Bengal State Electricity Board, setting up the Government agency for promotion of ancillary units.

Outstanding Tax Arrears

1839. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3786 on 16 August, 1985 regarding tax arrears in the country and state :

(a) the names of the companies, individuals, Hindu undivided families and others against whom income tax amounting to Rs. one crore and above duty is outstanding at present;

(b) the names of the companies, and industrial houses against whom excise duty customs amounting to Rs. 1 crore and above duty is outstanding presently;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to prevent the locking up of revenue by the trade going in for appeals which at times lead to the matter being dragged on for years together; and

(d) the effective steps being taken at present to enforce recoveries of these outstandings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Names of the assessees against whom Income-Tax demand amounting to Rs. one crore and above was outstanding as on 30.6.85, are given in the Statement laid on the table of the House.

[Placed in Library See No. L.T. 1554/85]

(b) Names of the assesses against whom Central Excise duty demand amounting to Rs. 1 crore and above was outstanding as on 30.6.85 are given in the Statement II laid on the table of the House.

[Placed in Library See No. L.T. 1554/85]

(c) and (d). Recovery of arrears of Income-Tax, Central excise and Customs duty is as on-going function and such measures (administrative, legal and others which may be persuasive and coercive) as are considered necessary are taken from time to time. On the Income-tax side, the steps include *inter alia* requesting the Appellate Authorities for expeditious disposal of the pending appeal and also resorting to proceedings under sections 226⁽¹⁾ and 179 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and attachment of movable and immovable property after issuing the recovery certificates to the Tax Recovery Officer under section 222 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. In order to prevent blocking up of revenue by the trade going in for appeal, Chief Justice of India and Chief Justices of High Courts are requested to constitute Tax Benches on a continuous basis and to hear on priority basis cases involving important issues. In cases where stay order is granted request is made for vacation or variation of the order or an early hearing of the case.

On the Central Excise and Customs side specific steps include instructions to the Collector to move the various courts and appellate authorities for early vacation of stays, engaging eminent lawyers to get the stays vacated and defend the Government interest in important cases.

National Rubber Production

1840. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the total quantity of rubber imported by India during 1984-85; and

(b) the national rubber production and its percentage from Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The quantity of rubber imported during 1984-85 was 32408 tonnes including 8001 tonnes which arrived in the financial year 1983-84 but could only be cleared during the year 1984-85 due to port and Dock workers' strike.

(b) The production of natural rubber during 1984-85 was 1,86,450 tonnes. Of this 92 per cent was from Kerala.

Decrease in Number of Tourism in Kovalam Beach Resort

1841. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of tourists both national and international to Kovalam Beach Resort in Kerala has considerably decreased due to the fear of the dreaded disease 'AIDS'; and

(b) whether there is any attempt on the part of Government to identify those tourists who are the carrier of such dreaded and incurable disease ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India's National Income Derived from Foreign Trade During 1983-84 and 1984-85

1842. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of India's national income that was derived from foreign trade during 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) the States which made the highest contribution of foreign trade during that period; and

(c) the products mainly responsible for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) India's Net National Product (at factor cost) at current prices was Rs. 1,59,598 crores, during the year 1983-84, according to quick estimates by the Central Statistical Organisation. The estimates of Net National Product for 1984-85 are not available. India's overall exports during the year 1983-84 at a value of Rs. 9,872.10 crores, represents 6.19 per cent of Net National Product during the year.

(b) and (c). Foreign trade statistics on a statewise basis are not compiled.

Trade with Gulf Countries

1843. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trade being done with Gulf countries;

(b) the details of items which have been exported to and imported from Gulf countries during the last three years;

(c) the amount involved in export and import of various items during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the trade with Gulf countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (c). Details of India's trade with Gulf Countries are given in the statement below.

(b) Principal exports from India to the Gulf countries are :

- (i) Fruits and Vegetables
- (ii) Meat
- (iii) Rice
- (iv) Tea
- (v) Spices

- (vi) Engineering goods
- (vii) Transport equipment
- (viii) Textiles
- (ix) Chemical
- (x) Gold jewellery
- (xi) Tobacco
- (xii) Jute bags

Principal imports into India from the Gulf countries are :

- (i) Crude oil
- (ii) Fertilizers
- (iii) Sulphur
- (iv) Ammonia
- (v) Dates
- (vi) Copper waste.

(d) Among the various measures taken to improve our trade with Gulf countries, the following are the more important ones :

- (i) A new export promotion and marketing strategy for Indian goods has been drawn up. Selected Gulf

countries have been identified as thrusts markets for intensive export promotion efforts.

- (ii) Similarly, thrust commodities/product groups have been identified and special measures are proposed to promote their exports to Gulf countries.
- (iii) Possibilities of like deals involving linkage of exports with imports, within the frame work of the existing policy are being explored.
- (iv) Participation in Exhibitions in Gulf countries. Exclusive Indian exhibitions are being organised in some of the Gulf countries. In addition Indian Jewellery exhibitions cum-sale are being organised in UAE and Kuwait.
- (v) Special attention is being paid to promote project exports in the region.
- (vi) Promotion of joint ventures between Indian and local parties in these countries.

Statement

India's Trade with Gulf Countries

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	Year	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bahrain	1982-83	32.13	141.37	(—)	109.24
	1983-84	53.30	55.60	(—)	2.30
	1984-85*	50.43	259.46	(—)	209.03
Kuwait	1982-83	129.01	282.43	(—)	153.42
	1983-84	114.88	247.10	(—)	132.22
	1984-85	114.59	285.82	(—)	171.23
Oman	1982-83	49.92	0.54	(+)	49.38
	1983-84	54.96	1.66	(+)	53.30
	1984-85*	55.34	167.53	(—)	112.19
					222.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
Qatar	1982-83	29.70	26.84	(+)	2.86
	1983-84	21.69	18.44	(+)	3.25
	1984-85*	30.01	51.44	(—)	21.43
Saudi Arabia	1982-83	227.29	1490.24	(—)	1268.95
	1983-84	239.99	1127.71	(—)	887.72
	1984-85	243.23	1247.94	(—)	1004.71
UAE	1982-83	219.21	365.10	(—)	145.91
	1983-84	224.66	229.97	(—)	5.31
	1984-85	266.29	394.82	(—)	128.53

*1984-85 (Provisional figures).

Proposal to Ban Import of Cement, Steel, Coal, Sugar, Edible Oils, PVC Resin

1844. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban import of such items like cement, steel, coal, sugar, edible oils, PVC resin, etc. which can be produced to the required levels in our own country;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to identify the items of shortage in the country and to encourage their production by giving incentives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Proposals to restrict import of PVC resin and coconut oil were received and have been examined. For the present it has been decided to maintain status quo.

(b) Ministry of Commerce has not conducted any survey.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Hotel at Konark

1845. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal approved by the Union Government to construct a joint sector hotel with the co-operation of Orissa Tourist Development Department at Konark;

(b) if so, the details regarding its progress; and

(c) the time likely to be taken for its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). During the VI Plan ITDC had a proposal to construct a joint venture cottage complex at Konark in collaboration with the State Government. The proposal did not materialise for want of a suitable site.

Price of Cotton Fixed by Cotton Corporation of India

1846. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) how many quintals of cotton have so far been purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India from Andhra Pradesh and at what rates;

(b) whether the problems faced by the cotton growers have been studied by Government;

(c) if so, the details of the problems and how these are going to be solved; and

(d) whether the Cotton Corporation of India propose to purchase all cotton stocks provided these are brought to market yards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTIES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The Cotton Corporation of India has purchased a quantity of around 11700 bales of cotton from Andhra Pradesh upto 18.11.1985. The prices paid by the Corporation for different varieties of kapas ranged between Rs. 421/- and Rs. 500/- per quintal. The minimum support prices fixed by the Govt. are with reference to fair average quality of cotton. In case of inferior quality cotton suitable deductions are required to be made.

(b) and (c). The Cotton Corporation of India sent three teams comprising the representatives of the Corporation and Agriculture Department of State Government to the villages where unsold stocks were reported to be lying with the farmers. The major problem with the cotton in Andhra Pradesh has been inferior quality especially low micronaire, large scale mixing and poor seeds. However, the said teams visited a large number of villages and covered about 40000 quintals of kapas and thus helped the cotton growers in realising better prices. Government of India also deputed an Inter-Ministerial Team to look into the arrangements made in Andhra Pradesh for the purchase of cotton and other related matters.

(d) The Cotton Corporation of India will buy at support prices all the cotton brought to its purchase centres.

Agreement Between India and Afghanistan for Import of Fruits

1847. SHRI V. TULSI RAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between India and Afghanistan for

import of fresh fruits from Afghanistan and export of non-traditional goods by India;

(b) if so, the duration of the agreement and the varieites of fresh fruits that will be imported and non-traditional goods that will be exported;

(c) the total amounts involved in the agreement and how the payments will be made by each country;

(d) the extent to which India will be benefited; and

(e) the names of the States from which non-traditional goods are proposed to be exported with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Afghanistan on 20 October 1985 for the import of fresh fruits from Afghanistan and export of non-traditional goods by India.

(b) The Agreement is valid till 19.10.86. The varieties of fresh fruits imported from Afghanistan include Grapes, Anar (Kandhari) Anar (bedana) and Melons. The items to be exported from India are drugs, pharmaceuticals chemicals; dyes, and paints; hospital equipment; Tyres & tubes; Poultry items; all types of machinery and capital goods; electrical equipment; agricultural machinery and equipment; cosmetics, toiletries and detergents; insecticides and pesticides, textile items, including rayon fabrics; consumer durables including bicycles, sewing machines, diesel engines, pump sets, etc; sanitary goods and bath-room fittings; leather and leather goods; spices; and cigarettes.

(c) The total imports under the agreement can be up to Rs. 4.74 crores. A Special Escrow Account in the State Bank of India, London will be used for crediting 90 per cent of the C&F value export of fresh fruits from Afghanistan into India. This account will be used exclusively for financing the import of Indian goods into Afghanistan.

(d) and (e). It is expected that this arrangement will result in securing additionality of non-traditional exports from India

including such items from Andhra Pradesh and other States as may be commercially acceptable to both parties.

Export Potential of Wheat, Jowars, Maize and Fruit Juice

1848. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat jowars and maize have good export potential in addition to basmati rice, fruits and vegetables;

(b) whether recently at a meeting of the Agriculture Production Commissions held in Delhi the possibilities of augmenting agro-products and their export potentiality were discussed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have a few units which are processing fruit juice;

(e) if so, whether they are fully able to meet the domestic need; and

(f) if so, whether efforts have been made to explore for its exports also?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, current international prices for foodgrains are rather not attractive.

(b) and (c). The third conference of Agriculture Production Commissioners on Agriculture exports held on the 8th October, 1985 discussed various aspects relating to increasing production for increasing exports of basmati rice, fruits and vegetables, processed foods and marine products. It also discussed problems related to packaging and transports of these products.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir.

(f) Some of the units have started exports directly as well as through merchant exporters. The units are making efforts to develop more exports.

Loss to Cotton Growers Due to Unremunerative Prices

1849. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra suffered losses in the year 1984-85 on account of un-remunerative prices for the cotton in the year 1984-85; and

(b) whether the Cotton Corporation of India or the Agricultural Price Commission conducted any inquiry to ascertain the causes of the depression of the cotton market in the year 1984-85 and whether the producers were able to sell their products or stock of cotton before the arrival of new produce in August and September of 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Cotton year 1984-85 turned out to be an excellent one. The production of cotton at the end of the season was estimated at about 101.50 lakh bales as against the production estimate of 75.16 lakh bales in 1983-84 cotton season. This had the effect of bringing down the prices as compared to the prices prevailing in the previous year. However the prices were generally prevailing above the minimum support level. The carry-over stocks at the end of the 1984-85 season were considered to be equal to the desired norm of 3 months requirement to meet the requirements of the industry before the fresh arrivals in the current season.

[Translation]

Liberalisation of Textile Policy

1850. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the new textile policy implemented recently to make it more liberal for encouraging handloom/powerloom industries in order to check manufacturing of synthetic clothes and to develop the handloom industries;

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to bring forward a liberal policy by amending the present policy;

(c) whether there are some difficulties in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No amendment is considered necessary.

(b) to (d), Do not arise.

[*English*]

Breaking Nexus between Powerloom Owners and Middlemen

1851. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that better cost effectiveness can be achieved if the present nexus between powerloom owners and the middlemen for supply of yarn can be broken;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether any decision in this regard has been taken; and

(d) if so, this details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) The problem regarding yarn supply can be resolved only by making adequate supplies available from various sources in addition to middlemen. The production of yarn is quite adequate at present and local shortages, if any can be speedily rectified by contacting the mills, including certain NTC mills.

The NTC has also opened a yarn booking depot at Bhiwandi to facilitate direct sales to powerloom owners.

Slump in Price of Jute in Bihar and West Bengal

1852. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great slump in jute prices in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) how far it has affected the jute growers of those States; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to arrest the decline in prices of jute in those States to save the interest of jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). With the harvesting of a bumper crop of raw jute this season, prices have declined not only in Bihar and West Bengal but in all up-country markets. With a view to protecting the interests of jute growers, the following steps have been taken:—

(i) The Jute Corporation of India has been directed to undertake large scale purchases of raw jute at minimum statutory prices fixed by the Government;

(ii) Sufficient credit has been placed at the disposal of Jute Corporation of India for undertaking price support operation;

(iii) A directive has been issued on 6.9.1985 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute by mills;

(iv) The Jute Corporation of India has been permitted to export a limited quantity of raw jute.

Tyres Exported to U. S. A.

1853. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of tyres exported to U. S. A. from India during 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) whether any concessions have been given in the freight charges for the tyre goods transhipments; and

(c) whether the tyre industry will be able to compete the tyre manufacturing industry of foreign countries without any concession in the freight charges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The total value of tyres and tubes exported to USA during 1983-84 and 1984-85 is as under :—

Year	(Rs./crores)
Exports	
1983-84	3.6
1984-85	15.1

(b) Freight charges are fixed by shipping lines. Government has not directed the fixation of concessional rates for exports of tyre goods.

(c) Cash Compensatory Support @15 per cent is allowed on exports of automobile tyres and tubes, to compensate various disadvantages faced by the industry, which includes disadvantage on account of higher freight charges also. Exports of tyres and tubes from India have been showing an increasing singtrend.

[Translation]

Inflow of Foreign Tourists

1854. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the target and actual achievement of inflow of foreign tourists for the last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists to India is not increasing to the required extent; and

(c) the details of new schemes to attract and encourage tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Foreign tourist arrivals, excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, was 852,503 during 1984 as compared to 884,731 tourist arrivals during 1983.

(c) The schemes proposed to be implemented during the Seventh Five Year Plan to attract more foreign tourists include deve-

lopment of beach resorts, improvement of facilities for Himalayan trekking, preservation of national heritage areas, development of facilities along Buddhist circuits, provision of accommodation for budget tourists at tourist centres etc.

Grant of Loan to Youths Under Self-Employment Scheme in Delhi

1855. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who had applied for loan in this year in Delhi under Self-employment Scheme and the number of unemployed young persons who have been sanctioned loan;

(b) the detailed reasons for not sanctioning loan to the remaining applicants; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to streamline the procedure granting loan to the youths under self-employment scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARA) : (a) and (b). The Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth which was introduced in the year 1983-84, extends to all areas of the country, excepting cities with more than one million population as per 1981 census. Since Delhi is a city having more than one million population it was not covered under Self-Employment Scheme.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India have issued suitable guidelines to streamline the procedure for granting loans to youths under Self-employment scheme from time to time. Under the scheme, the bank should not ask for owner's contribution in the form of margin money or seek collateral security or third party guarantee for the loan. The security for the bank will be the asset created out of the bank finance. The banks were advised to delegate adequate discretionary powers in respect of cases sponsored under the scheme so that the loans could be sanctioned by them without making reference to higher authorities. In each district a Task Force has

been constituted to process the applications received and to recommend suitable cases to the bank branches. The loan proposals are to be disposed of by the Branch Manager within 14 days from the date of receipt.

[*English*]

**Condition of Bidri Industry and
Bidri Craftsmen**

1856. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bidri industry is in a bad state with less domestic demand and declining exports;

(b) if so, whether Government have made a survey of the problems of the bidri artisans and this ancient art; and

(c) the special steps under consideration of Government to improve the condition of Bidri art and its craftsmen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The figures of domestic sales of bidriware are not available. However, according to the latest available data, the value of exports of bidriware were Rs. 7.00 lakhs in 1980-81, Rs. 18.59 lakhs in 1981-82 and Rs. 11.76 lakhs in 1982-83.

(b) A survey of artmetalware industry at selected Centres was taken up in 1981 which included bidriwares also.

(c) 1. During the last 3 years Bidri craftsmen were taken to product promotion programmes and market meets held at Madras, Trivandrum, Calicut, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore.

2. Work shed-cum-housing complex is being set up by Government of Karnataka at Bidar with a view to provide better working conditions to bidri craftsmen.

Loan for Kolaghat Thermal Power Project from I.D.B.I.

1858. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West Bengal Electricity Development Corporation has approached the Industrial Development Bank of India for a loan of Rs. 25 crores to finance Kolaghat Thermal Power Project among others;

(b) if so, whether the loan has been granted; and

(c) if not, when it will be granted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDC) has approached financial institutions for a rupee term loan of rupees three hundred crores for financing the Kolaghat Thermal Power Plant-Phase II. The WBPDC has also sought an *ad-hoc* disbursement of rupees thirty crores to meet its urgent fund requirements. Financial institutions have no such system for *ad-hoc* disbursements. The appraisal of the project has been taken up by the IDBI in consultation with Central Electricity Authority.

Export Plants for Public Sector Undertakings Projects

1859. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision that every public sector undertaking will hereafter export a certain minimum percentage of its total production;

(b) if so, whether all the public sector undertakings have been asked to formulate detailed export plans of their products; and

(c) if so, the response of the public sector undertakings to the decision ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). At a meeting of Public Sector Undertakings in the field of engineering, the undertakings were asked to formulate export plans as a part of the overall corporate plan of the undertakings and strive to export some percentage of the total production depending upon the product-

mix, availability of export surplus and the export demand for the product.

(c) The response of the Public Sector Undertakings has been encouraging.

Textile Mills identified for Nationalisation during 1985-86

1860. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills nationalised during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have identified some more textile mills for nationalisation in 1985-86;

(c) if so, the names of the places where those textile mills are located; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No textile mills were nationalised by the Central Government during the last three years.

(b) Government do not generally propose fresh takeover for nationalisation of textile units.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Views of MPs on Suggestions made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on Black Money

1861. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought the views of the Members of Parliament on the suggestions made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy for combating tax evasion and unearthing black money;

(b) if so, whether the suggestions have since been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far these are considered to be effective for unearthing black money in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The Government had invited the views of the Members of the Parliament on the suggestions made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in their report on 'Assets of Black Economy in India' and the response sheets had been received from a sizeable number of Members of Parliament. There is a mixed reaction from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and these will be kept in view while framing the long term fiscal policy.

Fraud in Oriental Bank of Commerce

1862. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that during period from 1978 to 1980 Oriental Bank of Commerce (a nationalised bank) has been defrauded of more than Rs. 5 crores by some person;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrest has since been made; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in regard thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). A Foreign Exchange dealer in the Oriental Bank of Commerce had entered into certain foreign exchange deals during early 1980 which were unfavourable to the bank and resulted in losses. The approximate loss on account of these deals, as indicated in the chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation amounts to Rs. 467 lakhs.

The CBI which investigated the matter has filed two chargesheets against the dealer and other in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi in October and November, 1982. The dealer is reported to be in Hong-kong and has not been arrested.

[Translation]

Steps to Increase Export and Reduce Imports during Seventh Plan

1863. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank has cautioned Government in their report ending June, 1985 presented recently, that if export was not increased, an acute financial crisis will come up during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, keeping the above fact in view, the action taken by Government to increase the export and to reduce the import along-with the details regarding some other facilities recently provided to the exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of India for '1984-85 has made the following observation : "The balance of payments situation could come under some strain during the Seventh Plan Period. Firstly, prospects for concessional external assistance are not good. Secondly, since the short-term prospects of a further major step-up in crude oil production of the order witnessed in the Sixth Plan Period are not bright, there could be pressure on balance of payments from the oil sector. However, the present softness of the world oil market and gradual weakening of the US dollar, in which oil prices are denominated, may prove to be mitigating factors. Thirdly, debt service obligations, especially to the International Monetary Fund, would be considerable. The investment needs of the Seventh Plan would raise the import bill substantially. In view of these prospects, export growth would be a critical factor in determining the health of the balance of payments. Equally relevant in this context would be the possibilities of import substitution, particularly in the areas of essential

commodities like edible oils. Further, while imports of essential commodities for bridging gaps in domestic supplies and containing prices have been helpful, it is important to recognise the limitations of balance of payments to sustain such large recourse to imports in the longer run."

(b) Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Efforts would be made to gear up these measures further during the Seventh Plan Period.

The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives in the sphere of trade policies, industrial policies and fiscal policies. The current import-export policy which will be operative for a three year period, 1985-88, is designed to introduce an environment of continuity and stability in foreign trade planning. It aims at providing a major thrust towards increased production, both for domestic consumption and exports, and to bring about efficient import substitution. The Government have also identified sectors for export promotion which can make a substantial contribution to growth in exports over the medium term. Public Sector undertakings are being involved for greater participation in export efforts. Simultaneous efforts are also being made to step up our indigenous production of importables during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

[English]

Evasion of Central Excise Duty by Manufacturers of Safety Matches

1864. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the manufacturers have spread up number of smaller units to manufacture safety matches but do not maintain any accounts in each and every such unit to evade payment of Central Excise duty;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for the safety matches

having outer card board to have inner also of the card board to improve the quality;

(c) whether the safety matches do not contain the requisite number of fifty splints and large number of them are broken and without match heads; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to ask the Central Excise Department to check these aspects while clearing the safety matches from the factories so as to realise the Government dues in full, check the tax evaders and quality of the safety matches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No, sir.

(c) and (d). Under the Central Excise rules, Central Excise officers are required to test check the contents of the match boxes to safeguard the interest of revenue.

Yarn Bank in West Bengal

1865. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have opened a yarn bank in West Bengal;

(b) if so, where the bank is located; and

(c) how many weavers have taken advantage of this bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The National Handloom Development Corporation has not opened any yarn bank in West Bengal. However, NTC assists the handloom sector by offering supplies at ex-mill prices direct to the State agencies/apex coop. societies. Further, three NTC subsidiaries have opened yarn depots in Calcutta to ensure better availability of yarn.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Opening of Hotel in Public Sector at Digha (West Bengal)

1866. DR. PHULRENU GUHA :
SHRI R.P. DAS :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Digha in West Bengal is a place of tourist attraction;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to open a hotel there in the public sector; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal is likely to be considered ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In the Seventh Plan neither the India Tourism Development Corporation nor the Hotel Corporation of India have any proposal to set up a hotel at Digha in West Bengal.

Women Officers in Nationalised Bank

1867. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women officers in different nationalised banks in India; and

(b) the number of direct recruits and promotees separately ?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, to the extent available.

Increase in Trade Exchanges and Joint Ventures between India and Mauritius

1868. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to increase the trade exchanges and joint ventures between India and Mauritius; and

(b) when the sipping service between the two countries will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Among the important steps promote Indo-Mauritius trade and joint ventures are extension of concessional lines of credit to Mauritius; organisation of wholly Indian exhibition; nomination of Indian Investment Centre as the India agency to help promote Indian investment and joint ventures in Mauritius; regular exchange of delegation and periodic meetings of Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission.

(b) A regular monthly shipping service is already being operated between India and Mauritius by the Shipping Corporation of India.

Uniformity in Service Condition and other benefits in the State Bank of India

1869. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recruitment is made for the selection of clerical staff for State Bank of India group and its subsidiaries by the Banking Service Commission.

(b) if so, the reasons why there is a step-motherly treatment between the salary, increment rate and retirement benefits like pension of the employees of State Bank of India and its subsidiaries like State Bank of Mysore; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in the Service conditions, Retirement benefits and other benefits of the employees of the subsidiary banks of State Bank of India and the State Bank of India since recruitment is same for both State Bank of India and its subsidiaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Recruitment of clerical staff in State Bank of India and its subsidiaries so far has been done by Regional Recruitment Boards of State Bank of India Group.

(b) The pay scales, allowances and other terms and conditions of service in State Bank of India and its subsidiary banks are governed by industrial level awards and

bipartite settlements with the recognised all India unions of banks by the Indian Banks' Association representing the managements of the banks. At present State Bank of India and only one of the subsidiaries of State Bank of India viz. State Bank of Hyderabad is having a pension scheme.

(c) As the terms and conditions of service of clerical staff in the public sector banks are governed by the provisions of various awards and bipartite settlements, Government have no proposal under consideration in this regard.

Allocation of More Funds to Karnataka for Promotion of Tourism in seventh Plan Period

1870. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent in Karnataka for the promotion of tourism during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) whether the amount allocated for tourism during the Sixth Five Year Plan for Karnataka was comparatively lesser than the amount spent in other States;

(c) whether Government propose to allocate more amount during the Seventh Five Year Plan for the promotion of tourism in Karnataka; and

(d) the details of plan submitted by Government of Karnataka to the Union Government for development of tourism in the Seventh Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) In the 6th Five Year Plan, the Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned an aggregate amount of Rs. 61.25 lakhs for the Youth Hostel at Mysore, re-illumination of Brindavan Gardens and a restaurant complex at Hampi. In addition, the ITDC has spent Rs. 128.90 lakhs towards expansion of Motel at Hassan, expansion of Hotel Ashok, Bangalore, expansion of Lalit Mahal Palace Hotel at Mysore

and expansion of Transport Unit at Bangalore.

(b) The question does not arise as the Department does not allocate funds State-wise. It provides central assistance based on the merits of the project proposals forwarded by the State Governments.

(c) and (d). The Central Department of Tourism has requested the Government of Karnataka to forward project proposals under its various approved schemes for central assistance during the 7th Five Year Plan. However, the detailed proposals are yet to be received from the State Government.

Distribution of Loan Through Loan Melas in in Karnataka

1871. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount distributed through loan melas in Karnataka from 1st June, 1985 to 31st October, 1985;

(b) the names of districts which have been covered;

(c) the amount distributed in South Karnataka during that period;

(d) the total number of beneficiaries under this programme; and

(e) the amount given as loan to the beneficiaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that in accordance with the Government policies the public sector banks are endeavouring to increase their flow of credit to weaker sections. During the course of achieving this objective the loans are sometimes distributed at public functions which are organised by field functionaries of banks depending upon the local initiative and response. Monitoring of the number and size of such functions amount distributed etc. is neither considered feasible nor necessary by R.B.I. As far as advances to weaker sections by all public

sector banks in the country are concerned, outstanding amount as at the end of March 1985 was Rs. 4072.19 crores in 150.08 lakh borrowal accounts.

Chair Lift Facilities at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir

1872. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYAR : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pahalgam which is attracting large number of domestic as well as foreign tourists one of the best tourist resort in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide chair lift facilities at Pahalgam as in Gulmarg to attract more tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government. It is, however, learnt from the State Government that they have invited offers from private sector to set up a Cable Car from Pahalgam to Amarnath.

[Translation]

Strike in Syndicate Bank

1873. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Syndicate Bank me Jabran Hartal" (Forced strike in Syndicate Bank) appearing in daily 'Jansatta' of 12 October, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the employees had to go on strike ;

(c) the loss suffered by the bank and the customers on this account separately; and

(d) the action taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Syndicate Bank has reported that the employees of the bank are advised from time to time to strictly adhere to the working hours of the branch. Despite the above instructions, 29 staff members of the Asaf Ali Branch came to the branch on 11th October, 1985 about 45 minutes late. The Chief Manager did not permit the said employees to sign the Attendance Register besides informing them that they would not be entitled to wages on the principle of 'No Work No Pay'. However, the Branch could carry on its normal transactions with the help of other staff members of the branch including the officer employees. On the same day, the employees who came late to the office, gheraoed the Chief Manager for four hours. Due to the strike on 11th October, 1985 by 29 staff members, the bank as well as the customers did not suffer any loss since the Bank had functioned normally and all the transactions were carried on. As per the rules of the Bank on the principle of 'No Work No Pay', wages of the striking employees were deducted for that day.

[English]

Smuggling of Snakes

1874. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge consignment of snakes was discovered by the Cochin Customs recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether snakes are being smuggled out in large quantities through Bombay and Madras ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Government have no information about smuggling of live snakes out of India. Presumably, the Hon'ble Member may be referring to the recent seizure of snake skins at Cochin. The facts are as follows :—

On 7th September, 1985, officers of the Customs Collectorate, Cochin, seized 56,813 pieces of snake skins valued at Rs. 15 lakhs. The snake skins were found concealed in

ment of 325 cartons of cashew kernels by M/s Jaya Cashew Corporation, Quilon. The consignment was destined to Singapore. In this connection, 7 persons were arrested on 10 September, 1985.

(c) Reports received by the Government indicate that snake skins continue to be sensitive to smuggling out of India.

Assistance to West Bengal for Central Sector Schemes During Sixth Plan

1875. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had extended assistance to the Government of West Bengal during the Sixth Five Year Plan for Central Sector Scheme outside the State Plan;

(b) If so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the actual expenditure by the State Government as compared to the assistance released by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Target Fixed for Advancing Loans to Priority Sector Under 20 Point Programme During Seventh Plan

1876. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the target fixed for advancing of loans to priority sector including farmers and weaker section under 20-Point Programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The banks have been advised to ensure that bank credit is channelled to various sectors of economy in accordance with the national priorities. In accordance with this policy, banks have to maintain advances to priority sector at

would ensure that there is substantial increase in absolute terms in the priority sector lending during the Seventh Five Year Plan period as advances and deposits of the banks are expected to maintain a continuous growth rate. Banks have already been advised to ensure that direct finance to agriculture reaches a level of 16 percent of their total credit by March, 87. The lending to weaker sections have to be 10 percent of the total credit. In terms of DRI scheme, banks have to maintain outstanding advances above 1 percent of the total outstanding advances as at the end of previous year.

Profit in Foreign Exchange for Export of Garment

1877. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that garment export to the East European countries has been showing improvement in these days so far as the question of profits is concerned;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) to what extent it has helped the foreign exchange earnings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Garment and knitwear exports to East European Countries have shown improvement. The value of exports is given below :

(Rs. in Crores)

1983	84.40
1984	118.63
Jan.—Sept. 1984	73.11
Jan.—Sept. 1985	127.31

(Source : Apparel Export Promotion Council)

High Priced Teas for Export and Low Priced Teas for Domestic Consumption

1878. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a facts that Government's dual policy of allocating high priced teas for exports and low priced teas for internal consumption has badly hit the exports of Indian tea;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the traditional buyers of common teas have switched over to other markets resulting in accumulation of about 307 of these grades and disastrous fall in tea prices;

(c) the details of foreign exchange earned from traditional buyers of common Indian teas during the last three years; and

(d) Government's reaction to these development ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). The Tea Marketing Policy announced by the Government in February, 1985 stipulated restriction on exports during 1985 to 220 Million Kgs. so that the balance quantity of tea could be available for the domestic consumers. The policy was also designed to favour utilisation of the export quota of 220 Million Kgs. by export of high value teas through mechanism of minimum export price which kept back cheaper teas for the domestic market. This policy enabled India to maintain an estimated unit value realisation of Rs. 33.82 per kg. from January to October, 1985 as compared to Rs. 34.54 per kg. during the corresponding period of 1984 despite the fact that world prices fell very sharply (about 50 per cent during the period). The stipulation of Minimum Export Price was withdrawn on 12.8.1985 because the surplusing world tea production as well as the comfortable position in India called for a progressive withdrawal of export restrictions.

There has not been undue accumulation of stocks. Quantum of tea sold in Indian auctions during January-October, 1985 was over 75 million kgs. more as compared to corresponding period in 1984, although production increase was on about 29 Million Kgs. Export Licensing figures show that exports are comparable to previous years. The estimated value for the period January to October, 1985 is Rs. 560 crores which is

comparable to earlier periods i.e. total for 1982 Rs. 356 crores and total for 1983 Rs. 517 crores through it is less than the record earning of Rs. 745 crores in 1984.

Shortfall in West Bengal under Branch Licensing Policy

1879. SHRI BHOLANATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Branch Licensing Policy formulated by the Reserve Bank of India for the period April 1982 to March 1985 and aimed at achieving a coverage of one bank office on an average for a population of 17000 in the rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) if so, the extent to which the objective under the said policy has been achieved in different States; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall in West Bengal, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The branch licensing policy for 1982-85 was aimed at achieving a coverage of a bank office for an average population of 17,000 in rural and seme-urban areas in each district. This objective has been achieved in respect of all the districts in the country except 30 districts in different states including three districts of West Bengal. The main reason for the shortfall in these 30 districts are lack of basic infrastructural facilities, non-availability of suitable premises and buildings, inadequacy of security arrangements in vulnerable areas, etc.

Treatment of entire amount sanctioned to meet Natural Calamities as Grant

1880. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have requested the Union Government to treat the entire amount sanctioned to meet natural calamities as grant; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a special case, the Government of India agreed to provide non-Plan grant to the extent of 88 per cent (in place of 75 percent which is the normal pattern of assistance for flood relief) of the ceiling of expenditure for flood relief in excess of the available margin money of the state.

Scheme for increasing acreage under Rubber Cultivation

1881. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rubber Board has formulated any scheme for increasing the acreage under rubber cultivation as well as for increasing the production of natural rubber; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rubber Board is implementing a number of schemes viz. Project for accelerated development of rubber plantations in North Eastern Region, Rubber Plantations Development Scheme, Development of technical infrastructure for promotion of rubber cultivation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc. Besides, the Rubber Board is providing subsidies, extension advisory support, rain-guarding materials, high yielding planting materials etc. for growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation, with a view to increasing rubber productions in the country.

Payment of entire amount of Depositors of Cochin Bank

1882. PROF. P. J. KURIAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to pay the depositors of the Cochin Bank the entire amount deposited by them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The erstwhile Bank of Cochin Limited, Cochin has been amalgamated with the State Bank of India with effect from August 26, 1985. The State Bank of India has agreed to make payment in full of the deposits of the depositors of the erstwhile Bank of Cochin Limited.

Floor Price for Export of Tea

1883. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation demanding removal of the stipulation regarding the floor price for export of tea;

(b) whether a demand has also been made that the tea estates be allowed to ship their surpluses; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Minimum export price on tea was dispensed with on 12th August, 1985. Other restrictions on exports such as quantitative ceiling on total exports and quotas for different varieties of tea produced in different producing areas have also been removed.

Contract for Supply of Iron Ore Pellets from Kudremukh Pellets to Qatar Steel Company and Arab Iron and Steel Company, Bahrain

1884. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is negotiating a contract for supplying iron-ore pellets from Kudremukh pellets plants to Qatar Steel Company and Arab Iron and Steel Company, Bahrain;

(b) the total quantity of pellets produced at the Kudremukh plant a year;

(c) the countries with which the agreement has already been entered into or the supply of iron ore pellets; and

(d) whether the Kudremukh team has visited Bahrain in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited are negotiating with Qatar Steel Company for the sale of iron ore pellets to be produced at their pellet plant, Mangalore. They are already exporting iron ore concentrate to the Arab Iron and Steel Company, Bahrain. At present there is no proposal to export iron ore pellets to Bahrain.

(b) The annual rated capacity of the pellet plant, Mangalore, is 3 million tonnes of iron ore pellets. The plant is expected to commence commercial production from April, 1986.

(c) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited have obtained Letter of Intent/ Memorandum of Understanding from Malaysia and Indonesia for the sale of pellets.

(d) The Kudremukh team has visited Bahrain in connection with the sale of iron ore concentrate.

Licences issued for manufacture of MS Ingots, Stroke Billets under Backward Integrative Scheme

1885. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of licences issued for manufacturing MS Ingots, stroke billets under Backward Integrative Scheme, State-wise information thereof;

(b) the guidelines under which these licences were issued; and

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to encourage big and multinational by restricting the capacity of ingot manufacturing to the tune of 30,000 tonnes and to deprive the licence under backward integrated who have got rolling capacity of 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes per annum ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) A total of 9 LOI/licences have so far been issued for the manufacture of M.S. Ingots/Billets under backward integration scheme for existing re-rolling units. The State-wise break-up is as under :—

Name of State/Union Territory	No. of units
Andhra Pradesh	1
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	2
Maharashtra	1
Punjab	1
Uttar Pradesh	2
Tamil Nadu	1

(b) These LOI/licences were issued under the guidelines contained in the Press Note No. 2 (1984 series) dated 23rd January, 1984 issued by the Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development. A copy of the Press Note is laid on the table of the House.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 1555/85)

(c) It is not Government's policy to encourage multinationals. However, it is necessary to encourage the establishment of units which incorporate energy saving features so as to reduce the consumption of scarce power in steel making units such units have to be of larger capacities.

Increase in selling price of Non-Ferrous Metals by MMTC

1886. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation's selling price of non-ferrous metals has been increased;

(b) if so, the extent and details of the increase in the prices;

(c) the extent to which such an increase has an adverse effect on market particularly hike in prices of other essential commodities; and

(d) the names of the metals the prices of which have increased together with the reasons for hike in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). In the last six months, there has been no increase in selling prices of non-ferrous metals by MMTC, except for marginal increase in the selling price of pig lead effected in view of market situation. The extent and details of increase in the selling prices of pig lead are as under :

(Value in Rs.)			
	Price in June' 85.	Price in November 1985	Increase in price
Pig Lead (99.97%)	11,250	11,500	250
Pig Lead (99.99%)	11,450	11,700	250

(c) Since the increase has been marginal and only in respect of pig lead, it is not likely to have any adverse effect on market or result in hike in price of other essential commodities.

(d) The selling prices of non-ferrous metals which have increased and the reasons thereof are mentioned in reply to parts (a) and (b).

World Bank Loan for Modernisation of Cement Industry

1887. SHRI V. TULSIRAM :
SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SEKHAR MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Cement industry modernisation-World Bank offer 200 million dollars' appearing in "The Economic Times" of 3rd November, 1985;

(b) if so, the details of the cement units identified by his Ministry for which the amount will be utilised;

(c) the extent to which such a modernisation will save the energy and boost production to meet the domestic requirements;

(d) the terms and conditions of the loan and how it is proposed to be repaid;

(e) whether any cement unit located in Andhra Pradesh will be given financial assistance therefrom; and

(f) if so, how much and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following units have been identified so far for the purposes of wet to dry process conversion with a view to energy conservation and upgrading of technology :

- (i) ACC—Madukkarai and Shahabad;
- (ii) India Cements—Sankaranagar;
- (iii) Birla Jute—Satna;
- (iv) KCP Ltd.—Macherla;
- (v) CCI—Mandhar.

Discussions are still going on with the Bank on the issue of further identification of units and the loan amount which is expected to be in the range of US\$ 175-200 million;

(c) By conversion of the technology from wet to dry process, energy is saved to the extent of 10 percent. In the dry process, precalcination can be used to increase the production of cement substantially even upto 100 percent.

(d) The details are being worked out.

(e) and (f). M/S KCP Ltd.'s Macherla Plant in Andhra Pradesh will be financed under the Loan. The amount to be allocated for all the sub-projects is under discussion.

Aluminium Research Technology

1888. SHRI V. TULSI RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleaseee to state :

(a) whether Indian experts are making concerted efforts in the aluminium research technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a new technology is expected to be implemented to bring India in forefront in aluminium ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). Conceted efforts by Indian experts in research in aluminium technology has been in progress in the areas of energy conservation, alloy development, casting and forging, welding techniques, heat treatment and metal finishing, re-covery of by-products, development of new applications for aluminium alloys etc.

(c) proposals have been formulated for the setting up of an Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre at the national level. The Centre when established, and becomes fully operational could be expected to lead India towards self reliance in aluminium technology.

[Translation]

Copper Mines in Rajasthan

1889. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleasssed to state :

(a) the number and locations of copper mines in Rajasthan and their daily output (raw copper);

(b) the number of labourers employed in them at present and whether Government propose to make efforts to provide employment to more people by developing these mines; and

(c) if so, the details of perspective plan in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). The location of copper mines in operation by Hindustan Copper Limited in Rajasthan and their daily output of ore alongwith number of workmen employed during 1984-85 is indicated below :—

Name of Mine	Location	Output of ore (MT/Day)	No. of workmen employed
1. Khetri	Jhunjhunu District	2090	2773
2. Kolihan	—do—	1765	1479
3. Chandmari	—do—	350	292
4. Dariba	Alwar District	88	160

The Hindustan Copper Ltd. has already initiated action to step up mine development and other infra-structural facilities in Khetri and Kolihan to increase production in these mines. There is a possibility of marginal increase in the manpower of these mines to be achieved by way of re-deployment. The known reserves at Chandmari and Dariba mines are likely to exhaust by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan and there is no scope to increase manpower.

Filling up of Reserved Vacancies in Nationalised Banks in Rajasthan

1890. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of branches of nationalised banks in Rajasthan at present;

(b) the total number of employees working in these banks and the number of posts out of these reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the posts reserved for SC and ST lying vacant almost in all the banks; and

(d) if so, the orders issued by the Ministry for filling up these vacant posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Steel Quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

1891. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total yearly steel production of various steel plants in the country, Plant-wise;

(b) the policy regarding distribution of this steel;

(c) whether any quota has been fixed for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The production of saleable steel at the six integrated steel plants in the country during 1984-85 and in the current year (upto October 1985) is given below :

'000' tonnes

Steel Plant	Production of saleable steel during 1984-85	April-October, 1985
Bhilai	1810	1060
Durgapur	621	365
Rourkela	1013	518
Bokaro	1459	897
IISCO	380	273
TISCO	1714	960

(b) The policy for steel distribution gives preference in supply of steel to actual users including small scale units. Priority is given to nationally important sectors like Defence, Railways, Atomic Energy, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Engineering Goods exporters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Cigarettes from Yugoslavia

1892. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1,600 tonnes of cigarettes are likely to be exported by Yugoslavia to India; and

(b) if so, the justification for the same in view of the fact that smoking is injurious to health ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). This Ministry is not aware of any such proposal.

Scheme regarding Power Bonds to Agriculturists

1893. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue Power Bonds to agriculturists which will be free from income tax;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme will be related to the availability of power in the agricultural sector; and

(d) if not, how the money is going to be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Guidelines issued by Government on floatation of bonds by public sector undertakings in the telecommunication and power sectors were

already furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1048 on 22nd November, 1985. In order to tap rural savings and avoid inconvenience to those who may wish to subscribe to these bonds, but are otherwise not taxable, the Guidelines already provide that there will be no deduction of tax at source from the interest which also be entitled to exemption under section 80L of the Income Tax Act.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to issue power bonds to agriculturists alone.

Chakravarti Committee on the Working of Monetary System

1894. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

SHRI RAMASHARY PRASAD SINGH

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI CHINTAMANI

PANIGRAHI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sukhamoy Chakravarti Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India in December, 1982 to review the working of the monetary system has recommended the restructuring of interest rates, modification of credit appraisal system financing of the Plan through non-inflationary means and a re-definition of the Central budgetary deficit;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the important recommendations made by this committee; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the various exercises being made by his Ministry to reshape the existing monetary policy in the broadest sense particularly with a view to achieve price stability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Reserve Bank of India will be taking necessary action in consultation with the Government in response to the recommendations made by the Committee. A task force has already been appointed by the R.B.I. to inter alia, examine critically the

recommendations of the Committee mainly from the viewpoint of implementation.

Establishment of Centrally Administered Tourist Centres and Hotels in South Maharashtra

1895. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new centrally administered tourist centres and hotels are likely to be established in Maharashtra, particularly in South Maharashtra;

(b) whether Ratnagiri beach is likely to be developed on the pattern of Madras beach by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). There are no such proposals.

(c) Does not arise.

Security Lapses in Banks

1896. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently announced that the security lapses in banks would not be tolerated;

(b) if so, the number of times, the inspection machinery of his Ministry inspected the different branches of the nationalised banks during the last six months;

(c) whether any irregularities in security have been found by the inspection machinery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated by Government against the persons responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Chief Security Officers are in position in all public

sector banks. They advise the bank managements on security matters. The bank managements take corrective steps, wherever called for, in their judgement. General functioning of the banks, including security aspects, are under review by RBI and Government. There is no separate inspection machinery of the Ministry.

Decline in Supply of Indigenous Coking Coal for Steel Plants

1897. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has expressed concern over the decline in supply of indigenous coking coal for its integrated steel plants;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India has taken up the matter with the Department of Coal;

(c) if so, the quantum of coal allotted to SAIL during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to meet the shortage of coal in the steel plants and to achieve the target of production of steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The quantity of coal allocated to SAIL by Coal Controller each year for the last three years and actual receipts are as follows :

Year	<i>(Figures in 000, tonnes)</i>	
	Coal Controller's allocation	Actual receipts at SAIL Plants
1982-83	13,911	11,276
1983-84	13,653	11,526
1984-85	13,742	11,112

(d) The Government has taken the following major steps to meet the shortage of coking coal in SAIL plants :

- (1) Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been asked to ensure adequate power supply to Coal India collieries, washeries, etc.
- (2) DVC/Bihar State Electricity Board have taken special steps to reduce interruptions on main feeders supplying power to Coal India installations.
- (3) Railways have been asked to provide adequate wagons for coal movement.
- (4) SAIL have been allowed to import adequate quantity of coking coal to meet the shortfalls from indigenous sources.

In order to increase the production of saleable steel, efforts are being made to ensure adequate availability of inputs of the right quality. Efforts are also being made to maintain cordial industrial relations, inculcate a new work culture, adhere to technological para-meters, carry out better maintenance and to improve productivity. During the period April—October, 1985, SAIL Integrated Steel Plants have been able to increase production of saleable steel by 17 per cent over the production during the corresponding period of last year.

Ban on Advertisements of Nationalised Banks

1898. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ban on advertisements was imposed in respect of nationalised banks in March, 1984 and the ban was extended from time to time;

(b) if so, the details of savings on this account in the said banks from March, 1984 to March, 1985 and also from April, 1985 to September, 1985 respectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said ban has been relaxed now;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ban affects the working of the banks; and

(f) the steps taken to check the misuse or unwanted use of this expenditure on advertisements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information available, expenditure on publicity, public relations, etc. for all public sector banks in the year 1984 was Rs. 3.13 crores as against Rs. 8.79 crores in 1983. Information about expenditure incurred by the banks during 1985 has not yet become available.

(c) and (d). In order to enable the banks to undertake some limited publicity campaign directed towards educating the customers and disseminating to the public, information about the measures that the banks are taking for improving the customer service, a partial relaxation has been made in the ban. The banks have been permitted in October, 1985 to use publicity budget to the extent of 15 percent of their 1983 provisions during the remaining part of 1985.

(e) Government do not consider that the ban affects the working of the banks.

(f) Government have emphasised upon the banks that the entire theme of the publicity should be towards improving customer service in banks.

News Item Captioned 'Sail Chief for Price Freeze to PEP Demand'

1899. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'SAIL Chief for Price Freeze to Pep Demand' appearing in "Economic Times" of 18 October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the demand for steel had so far remained stagnant over the last five years and per capita steel consumption was lowest among all countries, while there had been frequent price rise during the last few years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase the production and ensure price stability ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Plant Committee of main producers had assessed the demand for steel over the last 5 years as follows :

Year	Demand (Million tonnes)
1980-81	10.2
1981-82	10.5
1982-83	9.8
1983-84	9.9
1984-85	9.0

Per capita steel consumption in India is 17 Kg. and is not the lowest among all countries. During the last 5 years the price realisation for the main producers was increased on 7 occasions.

(c) Production depends on various factors like health of the plant, adequate availability of the right quality of inputs and power and the market needs. Efforts are being made to ensure adequate availability of inputs of the right quality so as to enable the plants to increase their production. Efforts are also being made to maintain cordial industrial relations and to inculcate a new work culture, adhere to technological parameters, better maintenance and to improve productivity. As a long term measure output of steel in the country will also be increased by technological upgradation of existing plants and setting up of new plants.

Price also depends on various factors like cost of inputs, wages and salaries, railway freight, duties and levies. Steps have been taken to contain cost of production which is expected to be controlled through higher production and productivity, better utilisation of capacities, better technological norms, saving in energy utilisation and containment of labour costs. These objectives will be achieved in the 7th Plan through technological upgradation, better maintenance and debottlenecking of the plant.

Import of Cotton and its effect in the Internal Market

1900. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton imported this season and the details of distribution of this cotton to the textile mills;

(b) whether the import of this cotton has dampening effect on the prices of cotton in the internal market; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in enabling cotton growers to get remunerative price for different varieties of cotton this season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) A quantity of 75,000 bales of cotton has been imported by the Cotton Corporation of India on National Textile Corporation's account.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The minimum support prices of different varieites of kapas have already been announced by Government and the Cotton Corporation of India has been directed to undertake price support operations whenever the prices tend to fall below the support level. Government have also released a substantial quantity for export during the current cotton season.

Decision to set up High Level Committee for personal Taxation

1901. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision recently to set up a high level committee to go into the question of reform of the structure for personal taxation in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) the names and number of members of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Government have decided to appoint a committee to study the desirability of moving towards expenditure, wholly or partly, as the base for progressive taxation of individuals and other non-corporate entities and to examine the implication of the levy of tax on expenditure.

(b) The terms of reference of the committee will be the following:

- (i) To study the desirability of moving towards expenditure, wholly or partly, as the base for progressive taxation of individuals and other non-corporate entities, keeping in view the constraint of revenue and ease of administration and compliance;
- (ii) To examine the implications of such reform of the income tax system in all its aspects particularly in relation to taxation of the corporate sector and problems of international tax harmonisation;
- (iii) To assess the likely nature and magnitude of transitional problems and suggest solutions, in case reform of the income tax base to provide for exclusion of savings is considered desirable and feasible;
- (iv) To examine related issues.

(c) The committee will consist of six members whose names are as under:-

1. Dr. Raja J. Chelliah	— Chairman
2. Shri C. K. Tikku	— Member
3. Dr. Amaresh Bagchi	— Member
4. Prof. Pulin Nayak	— Member
5. Shri P. A. Nair	— Member
6. Shri R. N. Bara	— Member Secretary.

Request of State Governments to Issue O.G.L. for Export of Foodgrains

1902. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the request of some State Governments to issue Open General Licence for exporting foodgrains;

(b) if so, the States which have applied for Open General Licence till date; and

(c) whether Government have issued any such Open General Licences to State Governments during the Sixth Five Year Plan period and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). There has been no request from any State Government for grant of Open General Licence for exporting foodgrains. Exports allowed under Open General Licence cover all categories of exporters including State Governments and private trade as well. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, export of Basmati rice was allowed under Open General Licence subject to Minimum Export Price and pre-shipment inspection. During 1983-84, and 1984-85 export of Barley was also allowed under Open General Licence.

Adverse Balance of trade during the Seventh Five Year Plan

1904. SHRI B.V. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the last few years the adverse balance of trade has honoured around Rs. 5000 crores a year;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve the balance of payments situation during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether in the Seventh Plan period projected figure of trade deficit is about Rs. 34,700 crores or an annual average of almost Rs. 7,000 crores;

(d) if so, the main reasons due to which the balance of payment situation continues

to cause concern during the Seventh Five Year Plan period also; and

(e) the remedial measures Government are taking to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) India's balance of trade deficit during the last 3 years was around Rs. 5,500 crores a year.

(b) to (e). The Seventh Five Year Plan projects the balance of trade deficit for the five-year period 1985-90 at Rs. 34,700 crores (at 1984-85 prices), which implies an annual average of Rs. 6,940 crores. Reduction in concessional aid flows, harder terms of external debt, etc. may place some strain on our balance of payments situation during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. The Government has been making concerted efforts to improve the country's balance of payment position.

Steps to improve profitability of National Textile Corporation Mills

1905. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has claimed all-round improvement in the first quarter, April-June, 1985;

(b) if so, whether according to them as many as 50 mills showed gross profit in August compared with only 18 in 1984-85;

(c) if so, whether the average loss which was Rs. 7.7 crores a month in 1984-85 has declined sharply to Rs. 1.35 crores in September, 1985;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any concrete steps have been taken by the National Textile Corporation to improve further ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) : During the period April to June, 1985, NTC has improved its performance in utilisation, productivity and profitability. The gross loss for April-June, 1985 has come down by Rs. 5.79

crores per month in the case of nationalised mills and by Rs. 1.07 crores per month in the case of managed units, as compared to the average losses of 1984-85.

(b) In August, 1985, 52 mills have made gross profits as compared to 21 mills which made gross profits during the Year 1984-85.

(c) The average monthly gross losses of nationalised mills has come down to Rs. 2.74 crores in September, 1985 as compared to Rs. 7.99 crores during the Year 1984-85. In the case of managed mills, the average monthly gross losses has come down to Rs. 1.7 crores in September, 1985 as compared to Rs. 2.11 crores during the Year 1984-85.

(d) NTC has been able to reduce its losses because of reduction in cotton prices, better management, product development, reduction of over manning and improved work culture.

(e) Some of the important steps taken/being taken, within the limited resources, to improve the performances of the mills under NTC are as under :

(i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels;

(ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for cash losses;

(iii) to overcome the power shortage, self-generating capacity has been provided;

(iv) selective modernisation programme have been adopted for result-oriented gains; for best utilisation of limited resources;

(v) cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost of production at all levels;

(vi) efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administrative expenses;

(vii) workers's participation scheme in the management scheme is being encouraged to achieve higher productively.

Introduction of Russian Textile Technology

1906. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether sophisticated Russian textile technology has for the first time made entry into India ;

(b) whether Indian textile mills have so far been totally dependent on the technology supplied by Switzerland, United Kingdom, Italy and West Germany;

(c) the extent to which this Russian technology is different from that of those countries; and

(d) if so, to what extent this new Russian textile technology has improved the performance of the handloom industry in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No. Sir. Textile machinery from the USSR has been imported previously also.

(b) No, Sir. Textile machinery has been imported from other countries also.

(c) It is not possible to make any specific comparison at this stage as this technology has not been adopted on a large scale so far.

(d) Government of India are not aware of any application of such technology to the Handloom Sector in India.

Exports by Hindustan Lever Limited

1907. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Lever Limited has failed to live upto its promise of increasing exports year by year given at the time when it was allowed to retain 51 per cent of Foreign Equity Holding; and

(b) if so, the details of the quantum of exports of its own products and others from the year 1982 onwards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) : Hindustan Lever Limited was allowed to retain 51 per cent non-resident interest subject, inter-alia, to the condition that the company shall earn foreign exchange by export of good manufactured by it, the ex-factory cost (less excise duty, if any) of such exports in each year being not less than 10 per cent of the ex-factory cost (less excise duty, if any) of its total production during the relevant Year. The information given in the statement below will show that the company had complied with this export obligation in the Years 1982, 1983, and 1984.

The company's exports of products manufactured by others during 1982, 1983, 1984 were Rs. 1290 lakhs, Rs. 336 lakhs and Rs. 974 lakhs respectively.

Statement

Year	Ex-factory cost of company's total produc- tion (Rs. in lakhs)	Ex-factory cost of products ex- ported out of Per- own produc- tion (Rs. in lakhs)	centage
1982	37,089.2	3,709.9	10.00
1983	41,325.21	4,409.81	10.67
1984	43,344.28	5,207.15	12.01

Action taken on Grievances of Bank Officials

1908. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYANA SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether bank officers had gone on strike in the last four months and had also demonstrated about their grievances;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances; and

(c) whether these grievances have since been settled or action taken to settle them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDAN POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 13th August 1985, the officers belonging to the All India Confederation of Bank Officers' Organisation (AICOBOO) went on

strike to press their demands. They were demanding better package in regard to salary revision than what was agreed to by the Government. The Indian Banks Association (IBA) representing the managements of the banks discussed the demands with the concerned Associations of officers and submitted a revised proposal to the Government which has since been accepted by the Government and the issue has been resolved amicably.

Export of Garment

1909. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the export of garment had been raised during the current year;
- (b) if so, the quantity thereof?
- (c) the value of the garments exported during this period; and
- (d) the names of the countries to which the garments were exported and the value of garments country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per the information furnished by the Apparel Export Promotion Council, during the period January-September, 1985, 20 crore pieces of garments valued at Rs. 839 crores were exported.

(d) The list of major countries to which garments were exported during January-September, 1985, together with the value of exports, is given below :—

<i>Country</i>	<i>Value</i>
	(Rs. Crores)
USA	301.44
EEC Member States	255.72
USSR	116.25
Canada	45.68
Japan	37.99

Switzerland	14.23
Sweden	13.85
Australia	13.51

(Source : Apparel Export Promotion Council)

[Translations]

Entrepreneurs of Singapore to set up Industries in India

1910. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHER TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that entrepreneurs of Singapore have been invited to set up industries in India;
- (b) if so, whether they have shown their interest in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) They have shown interest in electronics and marine engineering sectors.

Loans Sanctioned by 'IFCI' to Industries of Backward Areas

1911. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that last year the Industrial Finance Corporation of India sanctioned loans to the industries mostly located in backward areas;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned to the industries in the backward areas during the last year and the details thereof; and

(c) how much more is this loan as compared to the loans of last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) During the

period July 1984 to June 1985, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) had sanctioned loan assistance amounting to Rs. 235.58 crores to 216 projects located/to be located in notified backward districts/areas. This constituted 59.0 percent of

aggregate loan assistance of Rs. 394.08 crores sanctioned by IFCI to 410 projects in all areas during the same period.

(c) The required information is given below :

Loan assistance sanctioned to projects in notified backward districts/areas	1982-83	1983-84 (July-June)	1984-85
Number of Projects	145	187	216
Amount (Rs. in crores)	139.78	202.15	232.58

Shortfall in Export of Locks

1912. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHER TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether export of locks has been falling continuously;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to take any measures to make up this shortfall;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a fall in the export of locks and padlocks during the last few years as indicated by the figures below :

Year	Export in lakh Rs.
1981-82	56.77
1982-83	47.53
1983-84 (Provisional)	45.00
1984-85 (Provisional)	44.50

(b) to (d). Apart from giving other incentives like cash compensatory support, the Government has increased the drawback rate for locks and pad-locks for promoting export of these items.

Issue of Bonds by Public Sector Undertakings

1913. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector undertakings have been allowed to issue bonds;

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing bonds; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Wealth Tax will not be levied on these bonds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In view of the importance of the role played by the public sector in the economic development and the need to provide additional resources for its growth Government introduced a new scheme for flotation of bonds by selected public sector undertakings in high priority areas, particularly telecommunication and power. Guidelines in this regard have been published and copies of these Guidelines were furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1045 on 22nd November, 1985.

(c) These bonds will be exempt from Wealth Tax without any limit.

Renovation of 'Pork House' as Tourist Spot in Mussoorie

1914. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether George Everest had constructed a Pork House in 1827 to carry out survey of land in Mussorrie which is in dilapidated condition these days;

(b) whether Government propose to renovate this building and to make it an attractive place for tourists; and

(c) if so, the amount to be spent thereon and the time by which it will be ready as an attractive tourist spot?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Government propose to renovate this building and has made a provision of Rs. 15.50 lakhs for renovation and development of Pork House during 1985-86. The State Government has another proposal for renovation, development and beautification of the surrounding areas at a total estimated cost of Rs. 23.00 lakhs which is to be taken up in two phases as soon as the land is acquired.

IDA's Rigid Terms and Conditions of Loan

1915. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT :
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Development Agency and International Bank for Reconstruction has made the terms and conditions of loan rigid; and

(b) if so, its likely impact on Indian economic development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Steps taken to provide Cloth at Cheaper Rates during Seventh Plan.

1916. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the additional steps proposed to be taken by Government during the Seventh Five Year Plan to provide more cloth at cheaper rates to people;

(b) whether consumers have been benefited as a result of the subsidy given recently by Government on synthetic yarn and blended cloth;

(c) whether it has resulted in reduction in the prices of cloth; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The Textile Policy announced by the Govt. in June, 1985 suggested several steps to be taken for increasing the production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices to the people. These steps include lifting ban on creation of the capacity by new units and expansion of capacity by existing units, modernisation of textile industry rationalisation of fiscal levies on man-made fibres, increasing productivity of handlooms and transfer of controlled cloth to the handloom sector.

(b) to (d). Government announced reduction in duties on certain man-made fibres in August, 1985. Benefits of this reduction have by and large been passed on by the Fibre Manufacturers to its consumers. It is too early to realise the full impact of the reduction of these duties on the prices of cloth for consumers. However, the general price situation in textiles has shown a declining trend.

Decline in Overdrafts by States

1917. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state; whether the States have mobilised their resources for curtailing overdrafts or they have totally stopped developmental activities to reduce overdrafts which has adversely affected the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The Centre provided a medium term loan of Rs. 1628 crores equivalent to 90 per cent of States' overdraft as on 28.1.1985 to help States eliminate the overdraft. The Seventh Plan as also the Annual plan 1985-86 have been finalised based on a joint assessment of the resources by the Centre and States and Plans

as approved are fully funded. The States should, therefore, have no difficulty in implementing their developmental activities without recourse to overdrafts.

[*English*]

**Implementation of New Textile Policy
with regard to Handloom/Power-
loom and Composite Mills**

1918. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) how far Government have progressed in implementing the measures promised in the new textile policy with regard to handloom/powerloom and composite mills; and

(b) the reasons for not implementing any of the promised measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) (a) : Progress made in implementation of the Textile Policy announced in June, 1985 has so far been satisfactory. Several measures suggested in the policy have already been taken. Some of the important measures taken are:

- (1) Full fibre flexibility between man-made and cotton textiles has been allowed;
- (2) Expansion of existing capacities and creation of new capacities in spinning and the weaving sectors of the industry have been allowed within the overall policy for industrial development;
- (3) Fiscal levies on certain man-made fibres have been nationalised;
- (4) National Handloom Development Corpn. have opened a few depots for arranging supply of yarn and other inputs to handloom weavers in the country.
- (5) For handloom weavers, contributory Thrift Fund and workshed-cum-Housing Schemes have been sanctioned.

(6) Action has been initiated to introduce compulsory registration for Powerlooms.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Seizure of Intoxicants and Watches
at Delhi Airport by Customs
Authorities**

1919. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether it is a fact that customs officers seized 23 kg. of intoxicants and 3000 watches valued at about Rs. 33 lakhs at Delhi Airport on 5 November, 1985 as reported in the Navbharat Times' dated 6 November, 1985;

(b) the number of persons arrested so far in this connection; and

(c) the other measures being taken by Government to check such smuggling activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) On 5.11.85. the officers of the Customs Collectorate, Delhi intercepted and examined two packages which had arrived from Hong Kong and were awaiting transhipment to Kabul. On examination, 3392 wrist watches valued at Rs. 13.57 lakhs and 20 Kgs. of white powder were recovered and seized. The preliminary test conducted revealed that the powder is a basic drug.

(b) In this connection, so far, four persons have been arrested.

(c) The drive against smuggling has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department remain vigilant against smuggling activities in general; and commodities sensitive to smuggling. The trends of seizures made are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities, as warranted.

Stringent action is taken against the persons found involved in smuggling activities

both departmentally as well as through prosecution in the Courts. Apart from confiscation of the goods involved and imposition of personal penalties on the persons concerned, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases.

Planning Commission's Recommendations for Change of Financial Year

1920. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission had recommended that financial year be closed on the 31st October instead of the 31st March;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if it is not to be implemented, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Amount of Loan and Grant allocated to Uttar Pradesh

1921. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise amount of grant allocated to Uttar Pradesh by the Union Government during the last three years ending 31st March, 1985;

(b) the amount of loan allocated to it during this period; and

(c) the ratio between the amount of loan and grant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A statement showing the amount of loan and grant given to Uttar Pradesh and their interse ratio during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. Lakhs)

Ratio

Year	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
1982-83(A/C)	47248	47660	1	1.0087
1983-84(R.E.)	55886	55466	1	0.9925
1984-85(B.E.)	54019	58006	1	1.0738

[English]

Production and Export of Silk and Silk Products

1922. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of places where silk is being made in the country;

(b) whether India produces high quality silk and silk products and Indian silk is in great demand in foreign countries; and

(c) the steps further taken by Government to boost the production keeping in view to demand in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Sericulture is being practised and silk produced in almost all the States except Kerala, Haryana and Goa.

(b) India is the third largest silk producing country in the world, but the quality of silk produced in the country is mostly multi-

voltine which is yet to achieve international standards. Even so, Indian silks products are in good demand in the foreign markets and exports have increased substantially.

(c) For increasing production of raw silk and to improve the quality of silk and silk goods produced in the country the Central Silk Board has been implementing intensive sericulture development projects like Inter State Tasar Project, Muga Seed Development Project, Intensive Sericulture Development Project in West Bengal etc. For improving the quality, research has been intensified for evolving high quality yielding mulberry varieties, silkworm races and a silk Technological Research Institute has been established at Bangalore. Similarly, State Govt. have also been implementing various programmes for development of sericulture. Increase in availability of high quality silk is expected to boost exports.

[Translation]

Bank Robberies in Delhi

1923. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
 SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI
 KHAN :
 PROF K.V. THOMAS :
 SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
 SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :
 SHRI KISHNA PRATAP
 SINGH :
 SHRI SIMON TIGGA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the bank robberies committed in Delhi since the beginning of 1985 (till date), monthwise, and the amount involved in each case;

(b) the number of persons arrested in connection with these robberies;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the nationalised banks particularly the smaller branches operating in the residential colonies are without any alarm system and adequate security arrangements; and

(d) if so, the machinery, if any, to ensure that the nationalised banks have

modern alarm system and adequate security arrangements to check bank robberies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The information, as reported by public sector banks and Delhi Police regarding bank robberies/dacoities involving public sector banks that occurred in Delhi during the year 1985 is given in the Statement below.

(c) and (d). The Working Group on security arrangements, which was set up by Government under the Chairmanship of the then secretary (Economic Affairs) had recommended several measures to strengthen existing security arrangements in banks. The report of the Working Group was forwarded to 23 public sector banks for implementing the recommendations made by the Group. Banks have been implementing the measures recommended by the Working Group in a phased manner for providing greater security arrangements for branches. The progress achieved in making security arrangement is reviewed by banks' boards and Chief Executives. A meeting of the local heads of public sector banks in Delhi was convened by the Government on 7.10.85 to discuss the question of strengthening the security arrangements in banks' branches in Delhi, advice, as below, was reiterated :—

- (i) to observe weekly off days in branches coinciding with the closing day of the market in the area;
- (ii) each branch should have an armed security guard;
- (iii) each bank branch should have a collapsible gate properly chained and locked at the entrance.
- (iv) there should be self-locking wire meshed cabins for Cashiers;
- (v) proper alarm system should be maintained and the alarm should not be feeble but a loud one;
- (vi) there should be periodical checking of security arrangements by senior officials of the banks,

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Date of occurrence	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons arrested
1.	State Bank of India (Evening Branch), Greater Kailash, Delhi Circle, Delhi.	14.3.85	4.19	...
2.	Union Bank of India, Anand Niketan Branch, Delhi.	4.3.85	0.45	...
3.	Bank of India, New Friends Colony, New Delhi.	21.5.85	Nil	...
4.	Vijaya Bank, Chandni Chowk Delhi.	4.6.85	Nil	
5.	New Bank of India, Masjid Moth, Panchasheel Enclave, New Delhi.	10.7.85	3.02	...
6.	Bank of India, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi.	21.8.85	4.19	...
7.	Indian Bank, Safdarjang Enclave, New Delhi.	4.10.85	2.88	...

[English]

Collaboration Between India and West Germany

1924. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalisation in the economic policies and the pragmatic attitude of Government towards the foreign investment have encouraged German companies to increase their involvement in India;

(b) if so, the extent to which the trade between India and West Germany have been increased; and

(c) the fields in which collaboration between the two countries is being further strengthened ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Indo-FRG trade increased from Rs. 1443 crores

in 1983-84 to Rs. 1717 crores in 1984-85 (provisional). There has of late been considerable interest evinced by countries like the Federal Republic of Germany in exploring possibilities and opportunities for technology transfer and industrial collaboration including joint ventures with Indian enterprises. The major areas of collaboration between India and FRG so far cover product groups like machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Adoption of Girijan Settlement by Nationalised Banks to promote Rural Development

1925. DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks adopt Girijan Settlement so as to promote rural developments; and

(b) if so, the main features of assistance provided to the Girijans, the rate of interest and number of settlements adopted during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it does not have information regarding the adoption of Girijan settlements by banks. The commercial banks have a scheme of village adoption for intensive financing of adopted villages. This would cover intensive financing of settlements with predominant Girijan population also. Girijans can also avail of assistance under specific schemes such as the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme, the Integrated Rural Development Programme etc. The Rate of Interest under the DRI Scheme is 4 percent per annum. Under the IRDP while the normal rate of interest is 10 percent beneficiaries who are eligible for assistance under the DRI Scheme are charged interest at the DRI rate of 4 percent per annum. Simplification of applications forms liberalisation of margin and security requirements, post lending guidance etc. are some of the measures banks have taken to increase the flow credit to weaker sections. Banks have been advised to ensure that 10 percent of their total outstanding advances should be in favour of weaker sections.

Proposal for Abolition of Export Duty on Chrome-Ore

1926. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals have come from different sectors for the abolition of export duty on chrome-ore ;

(b) if so, sector from which such proposal have come; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction to the proposals and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) : The export duty on Chrome-ore and concentrates has been abolished with effect from 17th March, 1985. There is, therefore, no question of receiving proposals from any sector on

abolition of export duty on Chrome Ore, or the Government reacting thereto.

Export of Handicrafts, Carpets and Jewellery to Gulf Countries

1927. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether silk, handicrafts, carpets, jewellery, etc. are being exported to the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the value of such exports during the past three years, with year-wise, country wise and item-wise break-up; and

(c) the steps being taken and the special incentives, if any, being offered to the exporters to increase export as well as increase the items of export to these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statements I & II prepared on the basis of available data upto 1982-83 are given below.

(c) No special incentives are offered to the exporters exporting to Gulf countries. However, steps taken to increase export to these countries are as follows :—

(i) A sales-cum-study team visited Soudi Arabia, Bahrain and Dubai during February, 1982 to explore market potential for handicrafts including hand knotted carpets.

(ii) A special exhibition of handicrafts was held at Doha during 1984. Another exhibition of handicrafts was held in Kuwait in October 1985. In these exhibitions silk scarves, stoles and brocades were also exhibited and sold.

(iii) Gold jewellery exhibitions have been held in Kuwait, Dubai, Doha, Abudhabi in the last 3 years.

Statement—I

Export of Silk goods to important Gulf Countries during the years 1980-81 to 1982-83 (value in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Country	Year	Mulberry Silk Goods	Taskar silk goods	Mixed blended silk goods
1. U.A.E.		1980-81	146.89	0.55	4.36
		1981-82	179.48	3.28	1.83
		1982-83	280.62	4.79	4.62
2. Kuwait		1980-81	53.53	1.20	0.80
		1981-82	95.14	6.81	1.09
		1982-83	87.45	1.92	0.70
3. South Oman		1980-81	31.98	Nil	30.14
		1981-82	35.20	Nil	34.39
		1982-83	40.96	Nil	53.20
4. Yemen (YAR)		1980-81	10.57	Nil	Nil
		1981-82	19.39	Nil	Nil
		1982-83	22.20	Nil	Nil
5. Bahrain		1980-81	5.73	Nil	Nil
		1981-82	9.55	Nil	Nil
		1982-83	13.08	Nil	Nil
6. Doha Qatar		1980-81	5.49	Nil	Nil
		1981-82	15.55	Nil	Nil
		1982-83	11.17	Nil	Nil
7. Saudi Arabia		1980-81	105.86	Nil	1.52
		1981-82	157.87	Nil	0.38
		1982-83	265.64	Nil	1.25

Statement-II

Exports of handicrafts to important Gulf countries during the years 1980-81 to 1982-83

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Country	Year	Handknotted woollen car- pets etc.	Other handicrafts	Jewellery
			1	2	3
1.	Bahrain Islands	1980-81	0.82	52.43	8.25
		1981-82	4.51	76.52	34.02
		1982-83	13.38	96.39	113.00
2.	Kuwait	1980-81	5.82	296.60	715.00
		1981-82	35.46	377.61	1,951.71
		1982-83	45.30	326.49	2,092.94
3.	Qatar	1980-81	3.39	78.61	40.59
		1981-82	9.90	98.52	237.85
		1982-83	12.94	68.56	267.43
4.	Saudi Arabia	1980-81	53.92	2,227.97	138.18
		1981-82	34.88	2,268.20	209.46
		1982-83	27.16	2,316.98	322.56

Incentive to Entrepreneurs to build
Medium Hotels to the needs of
Domestic Tourists

1928. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any scheme under which incentives are given to entrepreneurs to build medium hotels to cater to the needs of domestic tourists; and

(b) if so, the full details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI

H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The Department of Tourism has a scheme of approving hotel projects from the point of view of their suitability for tourists. Approved hotel projects including those planned as medium hotels to cater to the needs of domestic tourists are eligible for various incentives including term loans at concessional interest rates from financial institutions which are available to the hotel industry.

(b) A statement giving details of the incentives available to approved hotels is given below.

Statement

(i) *Tax Holiday* : Under Section 80-I, in the case of approved hotels which

start functioning after 31.3.1981 but before 1.4.1990, 25 per cent of the profits and gains derived by an Indian Company from the hotel business are exempt from Income-tax for a period of eight years. This concession was earlier available only upto 1.4.1985 but has since been extended upto 1.4.1990.

- (ii) ***Initial Depreciation*** : Under Section 32(1) (v), an initial depreciation at the rate of 25 per cent of the actual cost of a hotel building is allowed as deduction in the computation of the taxable profits in the case of a company running an approved hotel.
- (iii) ***Extra Depreciation*** : Under item (iii) of Sub-part III of Part I in Appendix I to the Income Tax Rules 1962, an extra allowance of depreciation of an amount equal to one-half of the normal allowance in respect of machinery and plant installed by an Indian Company in an approved hotel is allowed as deduction.
- (iv) ***Higher Depreciation*** : In respect of furniture and fittings used in hotels, a higher rate of depreciation of 15 per cent has been provided under item (2) in Sub-part II of Part I of Appendix to the Income-tax Rules, 1962 as against the general rate of 10 per cent.
- (v) ***Hotels set up in backward areas*** : under Section 80-HH of the Income Tax Act, 20 per cent of the profits and gains from the business of hotels set up in specified backward areas is deductible from the taxable income for a period of 10 years, subject to certain conditions.
- (vi) ***Central Subsidy for Industries set up in Backward districts/areas*** : With effect from 1.1.1977, hotels set up in the specified backward districts/area are eligible for the grant of central investment subsidy under the Central Outright Grant or Subsidy Scheme, 1971.

(vii) **Institutional Loans** Approved hotel projects are eligible for the grant of loan by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and also other public financial institutions. This loan is eligible for interest subsidy of 1 per cent.

- (viii) ***Foreign Exchange Incentive Quota*** : Approved hotels are eligible for Foreign Exchange Incentive Quota which is determined @ 10 per cent of their direct foreign exchange earnings. This quota is available to respective hotels for essential imports, overseas promotional tours, publicity and advertising etc.
- (ix) Priority consideration in the allotment of telephone/telex connections, LPG (Cooking Gas) etc.
- (x) Besides, hotels qualify for investment by non-resident Indian in the equity capital of the promoting companies, subject to the conditions laid down by the Reserve Bank of India.
- (xi) Private Limited Companies were given certain incentives/concessions by the 1985 budget. As the hotels are mostly incorporated as private limited companies they will benefit from this concession.

News Captioned "Seizure of Gold and Gold Ornaments" in Bombay

1929. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Free Press Journal' (Bombay) of 5th November, 1985 wherein it has been stated that gold ornaments including foreign making gold valued at Rs. 22,61,80/- have been seized in Bombay from the premises of some gold dealers;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken against the defaulters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surprise search operations carried by Gold Control Wing of Customs (Preventive) Collectorate Bombay resulted in the recovery and seizure of 11640.000 grams of gold ornaments, 598.000 grams of primary gold and 15.000 grams of foreign marked gold totally valued at Rs. 22,61,801/- from the shop and working premises of two gold dealers, four gold smiths and one non-dealer for contravening the provisions of the Gold (Control) Act and Rules.

(c) and (d). Investigations are in progress and action would be taken according to the provisions of the Gold (Control) Act and Rules.

[Translation]

Increase in Smuggling Activities

1930. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI :
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether smuggling activities have increased considerably during recent years;
- (b) the total value of smuggling goods seized during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check smuggling firmly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reports received by the Government and trends of seizures made indicate that certain commodities like gold, watches, synthetic fabrics, electronic goods, dangerous drugs, Indian/foreign currency, etc. continue to be sensitive to smuggling.

The total value of the contraband goods seized during the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 (upto October) is given below :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in crores)</i>
1982	66.39
1983	89.92
1984	101.09
1985 (upto October)	159.13 (Provisional)

(c) The drive against smuggling has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of Customs department remain vigilant against smuggling activities in general and commodities sensitive to smuggling. The trends of smuggling and seizures made are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities, as warranted.

Stringent action is taken against the persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in the Courts. Apart from confiscation of the goods involved and imposition of personal penalties on the persons concerned, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases.

[English]

Setting up of Drug Manufacturing Unit in Nigeria

1931. SHRI RAM BHAGAI PASWAN :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government allowed M/s. Unique Pharmaceuticals Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., to set up a drug manufacturing unit in Nigeria; and

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange that Government will lose by way of displacing Indian export of drugs to Nigeria ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of losing foreign exchange did not arise as the setting up of the joint venture was not envisaged to be displacing the export of Indian drugs to Nigeria.

Overdrafts Position of States

1932. SHRI I. BALA GOUD :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the position with regard to the overdraft by State Governments is still not very happy; and

(b) if so, names of the States which had to take to overdraft to meet their urgent requirements during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No State was in overdraft as on 21.11.1985, the latest date for which the information is available.

(b) All States excepting Meghalaya and Tripura had resorted to overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India during the last one year from 22nd November, 1984 21st November, 1985. Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim do not bank with the Reserve Bank of India.

Decentralisation of NTC Mills

1933. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
 Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to decentralise National Textile Corporation mills functioning and allow them to compete among themselves; and

(b) if not, how Government except these mills to become competitive and viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) While individual units derive the advantages of belonging to a single family in respect of bulk purchases/sales, e.g. purchases of raw-materials and machinery and sales to DGS&D and for export, greater accountability, alongwith corresponding powers, is being placed on the profit centres.

(b) Does not arise,

Subsidy to Handlooms Manufacturing Cheap Cloth

1934. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
 Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether handloom sector has begun to manufacture cloth under the cheap cloth scheme; and

(b) if so, the output so far and the amount of subsidy paid to the handloom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Handloom sector has been manufacturing cloth whose sale price is subsidised under the Janata cloth Scheme since October 1976.

(b) The output since inception upto the end of March 1985 amounted to 2050 million sq. Metres. The total subsidy paid since inception upto 1984-85 come to Rs. 261.13 crores.

Import of Coconut Oil

1935. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of coconut oil imported every year during the past three years;

(b) the amount spent on import each year;

(c) the percentage of the demand for coconut oil met by domestic production; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase domestic production and ban completely the import of coconut oil ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). STC has not imported coconut oil during 1982 and 1983. A quantity of only about 9,000 MT for Rs. 12 lakhs approximately has been imported in April 1984 by STC to relieve the pressure on indigenous prices of coconut oil (Direct import of coconut oil is permitted for export production against Replenishment/

Advance/Imprest licences. The quantity of import under this category is negligible.)

(c) The entire demand of the coconut oil is met by domestic production except that 9,000 MT were imported by STC in April, 1984 as *one time operation*. No import is contemplated in near future and on regular basis.

(d) Government is increasing production through different programmes involving production and distribution of disease free seedlings of Hybrids and other high yielding varieties, demonstrations to popularise improved cultivation practices, rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive coconut holdings, financial assistance to the growers, etc.

Decline in Wholesale Price Index

1936. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the Wholesale price index during the past six months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this decline is reflected in the retail prices; and
- (d) if so, the mechanism being evolved to make the decline in the wholesale price index reflect in the retail prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Data on movement of Wholesale Price Index (Base 1970-71=100) during the last six month are given below :

Last week of	Index
May 1985	354.0
June 1985	358.0
July 1985	365.0
August 1985	360.0
September 1985	356.7(P)
October 1985	360.2(P)
November 1985(9th)	357.7(P)

(P) Provisional.

(c) and (d). The retail prices are reflected in consumer price index for industrial workers, which is compiled on a monthly basis. The consumer price index generally follows the trend in wholesale price index with a certain time lag. The annual rate of inflation in terms of consumer price index (Base 1960=100) has decelerated from 6.3 per cent in April 1985 to 5.1 per cent in Sept., 1985 (latest available).

Effect of Reduction in Excise Duty on Polyester on Cotton Growers

1937. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the excise duty on polyester has been reduced from Rs. 45 per Kilogram to Rs. 25 per Kilogram;
- (b) if so, whether it is not detrimental to the interest of the cotton growers; and
- (c) whether as a result of reduction in excise duty, the cotton growers have to sell cotton at price below the cost of production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Excise duty on polyester staple fibre has been reduced from Rs. 45 per kg. to Rs. 25 per kg. with effect from 28.8.1985.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The inference drawn does not appear to be well founded.

Proposal of Abolition of Sales Tax

1938. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have shelved the proposal of abolition of sales-tax and to bring about a one-point taxation to replace the present sales-tax;
- (b) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision; and
- (c) if not, when Government propose to implement the one-point tax system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). There has been a demand from certain sections for abolition of sales tax and its replacement by additional excise duties. As sales tax is mainly a State subject of taxation, the matter was considered in a Conference of Chief Ministers held in September, 1980 and again in February, 1981. Thereafter an Expert Committee was set up to study the financial implications of the extension of the scheme of additional excise duties in lieu of sales tax on vanaspati, drugs and medicines, cement, paper and paper board, and petroleum products and the manner in which the financial interests of the States could be safeguarded. The proposal was thus, for replacement of sales tax by additional excise duty and not for abolition of sales tax on the five commodities. The Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri Kamlapati Tripathi, M. P. submitted its report on 29th January, 1983. The report containing the recommendations of the Committee was placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 29th April, 1983. The recommendations of the Tripathi Committee were considered in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 2nd November, 1983. A large number of Chief Ministers indicated their acceptance of the scheme suggested by the Tripathi Committee for introduction of the additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax, in principle. Some of the Chief Ministers, however, indicated that they were not in a position to accept the scheme recommended by the Tripathi Committee. This Chief Ministers resolved that efforts should be continued to bring about consensus among the State Governments on these issues. As sales tax is mainly a State subject of taxation, any reform in the sales tax system can be undertaken only in consultation with and cooperation of the States. Efforts made so far have not resulted in reaching a consensus.

Export-Oriented Industries

1939. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the export-oriented industries in India;

(b) the exemption and other facilities given by Government to these industries; and

(c) whether precious stones and pearls also come within this export-oriented industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) A Statement showing the list of units approved under the Scheme of 10 per cent export-oriented units, as on 15th September, 1985, is laid on the table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No L.T.-1556/85]

(b) and (c). The concessions, facilities available to approved 100 per cent export-oriented units as also the illustrative list of industries which may be considered under the Scheme of 100 per cent export-oriented units are contained in Appendix 23 and Annexures thereto, of the Import and Export Policy (Volume I)—April 1985 March—1988.

Setting up of Drug Manufacturing Units in Nigeria by Indian Companies

1940. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian Drug Manufacturing units are going to set up drug manufacturing units in Nigeria;

(b) whether those private companies have got clearance from Government of India for the above purpose;

(c) if so, the cost of that project;

(d) whether some other Indian company has also set up Drug manufacturing plant at Nigeria; and

(e) if so, the details of such private limited company ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Four Indian Joint Venture projects are reported by their Indian promoters to be

still under implementation. The total cost of these projects is 73.73 lakhs.

(d) and (e). One Indian Company has already set up a Drug and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plant in Nigeria. It is, however, not a Private Ltd. Company.

—
11.47 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Review on and Annual Report etc. of Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta, for 1983-84, Statement re : delay in laying these papers and Annual Report of and Review on Cashew Export Promotion Council Ernakulam, for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1983-84.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1514/85)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions)

of the Cashew Export Promotion Council Ernakulam, Cochin, for the year 1984-85 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council, Ernakulam, Cochin, for the year 1984-85.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1515/85]

Annual Report of and Statement re : Review on Silk and Art Silk Mills Research Association, Bombay, for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Bombay, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Silk and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Bombay, for the year 1983-84.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1516/85]

Notifications under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, Life Insurance Corporation Act, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, Coinage Act, Custom Act and Central Excise Rules

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous

Provisions) (Third Amendment) Scheme, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 783(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 25th October, 1985 under sub-section (5) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1517/85]

(2) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment) Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 990 in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 1985, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1966.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1518/85]

(3) A copy of the Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 766(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1985 under sub-section (3) of section 79 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1519/85]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906 :—

(i) The Cunage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Coins of One Hundred Rupees containing Silver 50 per cent, Copper 40 per cent, Nickel 5 per cent and Zinc 5 per cent, Ten Rupees and One Rupee, containing Copper 75 per cent and Nickel 25 per cent, coined in commemoration of the 'International Youth Year 1985 Rules 1985 published in Notification No. S.O. 665(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 1985.

(ii) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of the Commemorative Coins of One Hundred Rupees (Containing Silver 50 per cent, Copper 40 per cent, Nickel 5 per cent and Zinc 5 per cent) Twenty Rupees, Five Rupees and Fifty Paise, (Containing Copper 75 per cent and Nickel 25 per cent) coined in commemoration of Smt. Indira Gandhi Rules, 1985 published in Notification No. S.O. 735(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1520/85]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

(i) G.S.R. 855(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Japanese Yen into Indian currency or vice-versa in supersession of Notification No. 308 Customs dated the 1st October 1985.

(ii) G.S.R. 858(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the Notification on importation into India for use inside the Noida Export Processing Zone at Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) for the purpose of being used in connection with the manufacture of export goods from the whole of basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

(iii) G.S.R. 859(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 1985 together with an explanatory note

making certain amendment to Notification No. 158-Customs dated the 24th May, 1985 so as to exempt goods covered by Notification No. 339-Customs dated the 21st November, 1985 from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.

21st September, 1985 under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-1523/85]

11.50 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Sixteenth Report

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixtieth Report of the Committee (7th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare—Drug Standards.

11.51 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : ATTACK BY SOME CANADIAN SIKHS ON TWO INDIAN DIPLOMATS AT LAHORE IN PAKISTAN

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : I regret to inform the House that two senior diplomats of the Indian Embassy in Islamabad, Counsellor B. Jain and First Secretary, K.K. Khanna, were attacked by some Canadian Sikhs within the Dehra Sahib Gurudwara Complex in Lahore on November 26, 1985 at 1430 hrs (local time). The two officers had gone to Lahore to assist in the transportation of the body to India of an Indian pilgrim who had died of heart attack a day earlier. Both the officers sustained head injuries and were admitted to a Lahore hospital. They are now out of danger. On hearing of the attack our Ambassador in Pakistan visited the victims in the hospital in Lahore.

The serious concern of the Government of India over this incident was conveyed to

Notifications under Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Department) Act

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1985 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 877 in Gazette of India dated the

the Pakistan Government on different occasions both in Islamabad and Delhi. Our Ambassador in Pakistan had been in touch with both the Pakistani Foreign Office and the Provincial authorities in Lahore. Yesterday, the Ambassador of Pakistan was called and told by the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of our serious concern, distress and disappointment over the incident. It was impressed upon the Pakistan Government that the safety and security of Indian diplomats, officials and pilgrims in Pakistan are the responsibility of that Government and that immediate measures should be taken to apprehend and punish the culprits. The House may recall that the assailants of an Indian official at the Gurudwara in Lahore on November 10, last year, have neither been prosecuted nor punished so far. Such acts have only encouraged the extremist elements. It is unfortunate that a handful of miscreants from other countries have been allowed to indulge in anti-Indian activities.

In response to our demarche the Pakistan Government have now informed us that six persons involved in the attack on the Indian diplomats have been arrested. We expect that appropriate punishment will be speedily meted out to the assailants and strong measures will be taken by the Pakistan Government to prevent such criminal acts against Indian diplomats and officials in future.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Sir with your permission I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 2nd December, 1985, will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Further consideration and passing of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1985.
3. Discussion on the Resolutions seeking disapproval of the payment of

Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 1985 and the Payment of Bonus (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1985 and consideration and passing of Payment of Bonus (Second Amendment) Bill, 1985.

4. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Aircraft (Amendment) Ordinance, 1985 and consideration and passing of the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
5. Consideration and passing of the Futwah Islampur Light Railway Line (Nationalisation) Bill, 1985.
6. Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1985-86.
7. Cosideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :—
 - (a) The Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (b) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Amendment Bill, 1985.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include the following subject in the list of Business for the next week :

The padlocks manufactured in Aligarh are famous not only in India but throughout the world. Even today Aligarh is famous for its lever locks. In the padlock industry, Aligarh has got a district place in the world map. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to develop Aligarh as a city of lock industry by making extra provision in the budget for it. Besides manufacturing of locks, this city is making steady progress in the field of other small and cottage industries as well. Now this padlock industry of Aligarh has confined to the big factories. The Workers engaged in this industry work day and night to make the factory owners prosperous but they themselves become

victims of intestinal diseases. Many workers also become victims of contagious diseases like tuberculosis and thus meet their untimely death. They are not in a position to get themselves treated even in the hospitals of E.S.I. Even the worker insurance policy is not applicable to them.

I would request the Central Government to take immediate steps for their proper health-care.

[*English*]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's business of the House.

The Coffee growers in the South have staged a dharna in front of the Coffee Board Office at Bangalore on the 28th of this month. The plight of the coffee growers particularly the small growers, who constitute nearly 90 per cent of the coffee growers is really miserable. For the past several years, they have been demanding remunerative prices for the coffee growers but their demand had fallen on deaf ears and they are now forced to resort to Satyagraha.

Their main demands are :

- (i) fixation of minimum release price of coffee seeds;
- (ii) Abolition of Export duty on coffee.
- (iii) Majority representation of coffee growers as elected members on the Coffee Board.
- (iv) Amendments to the Coffee Act to make it more effective.

Since their demands are all genuine I urge the Government to talk to the representatives of the Coffee growers and find solution to their demands.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : I suggest that the following matters may be included in the business of the next week.

(1) The recently held National Games in the capital have given an impetus to the sports in the country and given a lot of encouragement to the sportsmen and sportswomen. Preparations should now be made in right earnest for the 1990 Olympic Games. It is, however, reported that adequate sports infrastructure and other facilities are still lacking in the various States. Suitable coaching and other assistance are also not being provided to the sportsmen and sportswomen. There is an urgent need to thoroughly review the functioning of the Sports Authority of India and the various sports organizations, arrangements for coaching and providing all other facilities.

(2) The Agricultural Prices Commission was recently renamed by the Government as the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission. There has, however, been no change in the terms of reference and functions of the Commission. The recommendations of the Commission are not binding on the Government and very often their recommendations are not accepted by the Government. There are also lacunae in the studies of the Commission and the criteria followed by them which leads to incorrect calculations. There is, therefore, an urgent necessity in the public interest to have a discussion in the House on the terms of reference and functioning of the Commission.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : I would like the following matter to be included in the agenda for the next week.

It is well known that the chronic drought affected district of Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh is suffering from successive famines.

In order to provide employment to labour, it is very essential to improve this area industrially. This district is rich in minerals like iron, gold and asbestos. This district also produces ground nut and mulberry in large quantities. It is imperative that industries—agriculture based and mineral based are started in this area so as to provide employment. The Central Government should give top priority to this matter and locate as many industries as possible in this area and help the people of this area to get over the severe effects of famine.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN

(Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the following matters may be included in the List of Business for the next week :

- (1) In spite of the cotinuous efforts of the Rajasthan Government, the Bhakhra-Beas Management Board has failed to supply to Rajasthan its full share of water from Ravi, Beas and sutlej rivers. Actually, these rivers are under the control of the Punjab Government which does not supply water to Rajasthan at the time of need and supplies it when it is not needed. Consequently the crops in Rajasthan area get damaged. The Rajasthan Government has never approved this situation. I would, therefore, like to request the Central Government that it should exercise its powers and get the Rajasthan's full share of water from Ravi, Beas and Sutlej supplied to it in time and urge the Punjab Government not to interfere with the affairs of the Board.

- (2) The Madhya Pradesh Government has constructed and is still constructing hundreds of dams in 'catchment areas' of the Gandhi Sagar Dam. Consequently the State Government is not getting its share of water in the Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar and the Jawahar Sagar and lesser power is being generated in the State as a result thereof. The Rajasthan Government has sent many representations in this regard to the Central Government. The Chief Ministers of the two States also met in Madhya Pradesh. The Central Government had also convened their meeting but the Madhya Pradesh Government is still continuing construction of dams in 'catchment area' of the Gandhi Sagar Dam.

I would, therefore, like to urge the Central Government to convene an immediate meeting of the Chief Ministers of

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and construction of dams in the catchment areas of Gandhi Sagar Dam should be immediatley stopped and a decision should also be taken to supply Rajasthan's full share of water to the Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar and Jawahar Sagar.

SHRI AZIZ QUERESHI (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following matters may be included in the statement made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs :

- (1) With the increasing population and development of Delhi, its limits are expanding day by day. There is one railway level crossing near Okhla railway station for going to Mathura Road from Okhla industrial estate and Kalkaji. The crossing remains closed for 45 minutes to 90 minutes at different times. The patients going to Holy Family Hospital in case of emergency and the students and the teachers going to Jamia Millia University from Kalkaji side have to wait for hours at the crossing, causing physical strain and stress and mental torture. In addition, thousands of people going from Kalkaji to Friends Colony or other places and the vehicles including trucks, buses, cars, scooters, bicycles etc. remain stranded as the road is blocked. This results in a situation which can cause accidents. It is, therefore, necessary that a fly-over is constructed on the crossing immediately. Till the fly-over is constructed, arrangements should be made in such a way that this crossing is not closed for more than 10 minutes at a time. Also, keeping in view the increasing population of Delhi and convenience of the general public, Okhla railway station should be expanded and should be fully developed. Arrangements should also be made for stoppage of all those trains at Okhla station which come from or go to Delhi and stop at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations. All other facilities should also be provided there.

[*Shri Aziz Qureshi*]

(2) There is one historical and ancient temple of Lord Shiva in Varsinhpur, a city of cultural, historic and religious importance situated in Chitrakut Assembly segment under Satna Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh. Thousands of devotees come from far and near places to have 'darshan' of the Lord Shiva, but it is a matter of regret that the Government has not done much for the development of this temple or that of Varsinhpur.

For the development of this historic and cultural city and also keeping in view the religious feelings of the people and to give an impetus to the tourism, the Central Government should direct the Madhya Pradesh Government to take necessary steps in this direction at the earliest so that the city of Varsinhpur becomes an ideal city. It should also be directed that arrangements should be made to provide all modern facilities including lodges etc. for the tourists and visitors to the city. The Central Government should also give special financial assistance to the State Government for this purpose.

[*English*]

Dr. Datta Samant (Bombay South Central) : I request you to include the following in the next week's business of the House.

A number of factories at Bombay, Thana, Belapur in Maharashtra are closed down by the employers without any labour demands or agitation. Similarly, a number of small factories are closed down and about fifty thousand labourers are unemployed. Their Gratuity and Provident Fund will not be paid. All these employers have not taken permission of Government while closing the units as per 25(O) of Industrial Disputes Act. But all these factories are closed because of non-payment of electric bills, thus stopping electric supply, non-payment of workmen's salaries, not bringing furnace oil, etc. The tendency to close down units in such a manner is increasing day by day and in the coming five years, this tendency to close down the units will increase. Many of these employers are taking all concessions of industries in other States and closing the old units in Maharashtra, Calico Chemicals of

Sarabhai Group, WG Forge, Shrinivas Cotton Mill, Solid Containers, Bombay Mallable, Amardye Chem, Bomay Potteries are some of the important units.

Apart from this, hundreds of other units employing more than hundred workmen have applied to Government for closing down units or retrenching the workmen and sooner or later, they are going to use the same course of non-payment of electric bills etc. Government should take strict measure against these employers and they should not be given loans or concessions while starting industries at any other place or state.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : Sir. the Hon. members have a right to suggest inclusion of any item of business and I should certainly bring this to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee. Here I would like to make a submission. It is only a submission for the Hon. Members to consider. A number of items have been suggested in this, which to my mind can be raised in other ways and the Hon. members might consider this. They know the ways, for example, they can raise these matters under Rule 377, Calling Attention, under general discussion and so on. As the time of the House is limited and the Business Advisory Committee is faced with many problems, I am just giving you a suggestion. They have the right to suggest. And I will bring forward certainly to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

— — —

12.05 hrs.

MOTION RE : THIRD AND FOURTH REPORTS OF COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
— *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Item No. 19.

The House will take up further consideration of the Third and Fourth Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82. Now Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAIPAI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all the Hon. Members who have participated and shown keen interest in the debate which followed the report of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. Some Hon. Members have given valuable suggestions and their observations are based on the practical knowledge in the field. And this feed-back will help my Ministry to formulate the work in future. The recommendations in the reports and the suggestions of the Hon. Members can be divided into four categories. That is (1) socio-economic development. Almost all the Members have dealt on this point. I think this is the main point.

Before, I proceed on to say something, I would like to say that one of the Hon. Member in the back benches had suggested yesterday that if we can make road within 3 months or 2 months, why we are not able to solve the reservation problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I will politely tell the Hon. Member that while we are dealing with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes problems, we are not dealing with bricks and muds. These are human problems and they are deep-rooted in our social customs. So the socio-economic problems are the main problems. These cannot be eradicated in two months or three months. We have to go on working for it and our Government is committed to eradicate all these exploitation which are standing in the way of development of S. C. and S. T. So I was saying that in the first category it is socio-economic development.

In the second category it is educational development. Most of the Members have also dealt on this subject.

In the third category comes crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Fourthly reservation in services.

And in between came the problem of Scheduled Castes Commissioner and Commission. Almost everybody had spoken on

this point also. As you know that Commission was constituted in July, 1978, during Janata party Government and was termed as high-powered commission. The report of that Commission was discussed in the House. That is the importance which was given to the Commission. But under article 338 of the Constitution only Commissioner is to be appointed to review from time to time about the implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe programmes and the observation of rights which is guaranteed there. So, it is only the Commissioner who has got the statutory powers not the Commission. But as Hon. Members have suggested from both the sides that Government should think how effectively this Commission can work and certainly it will look into it.

12.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As far as socio-economic development of the SC & ST is concerned, since independence we are trying to work for it; and the government through different programmes is doing it. Now with the strategy of the special component plan and the special assistance programmes from the Centre to the States more emphasis is now being laid on these programmes. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, the target was that we should cover at least 50 per cent of the population. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, it is hoped that a large population will be covered by this and the impact of special component plan and the special assistance programmes from the Centre will be visible in blocks and in the villages also. Special component plan for the SC and tribal sub plan for the ST were the two plans which were started in the Sixth Plan and now we have completed them; and again we are continuing this scheme with more vigour, with extensive programme, and I hope that a vast majority of SC and ST are expected to cross the poverty line at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, because till now it is stated that more than 1.3 lakh SC families and 3.9 lakh ST families have already been economically assisted under various programmes during the Sixth Five Year Plan period. We hope that in the Seventh Five Year Plan it will be much more.

[Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai]

Some members have raised a doubt about the implementation of these schemes. As we all come from the rural area, we know its working and government also wants that these programmes should be implemented. So, the State Governments have set up review committees at State level as well as at the district and taluqa level and their implementation programmes are reviewed periodically. In addition to this, there is a high level official committee under the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner in these states, who take a periodical review. Monitoring is very important to see that our programme is implemented. The main concern is that whatever programmes we prepare should be implemented properly. The Central Government formulates policies, gives money and assists the State Governments, and it is now for the State Government to implement all our programmes. But the Central Government is in close touch with the State Governments at the district level. The District Collector being the Chief Coordinator of all development activities is the head of the review team and takes monthly review meetings with the district head of the department. So, like that, monitoring and review is going on, but, still, I don't say that everything is fine or everything is right at the lower level. There is always a scope for improvement. There is always scope for improvement and we will try to improve the working of the Plan at the lower level.

We are also now trying to ensure that the approach to the component plan is also through special assistance. It is not that we create the infrastructure in the locality. The family is taken as a unit. The family is benefited under the programmes for eradication of poverty. So now we are taking the family and we will see in future, during the Seventh Five Year Plan that greater emphasis is laid on this. It is not that we have touched only one per cent, two per cent or four or five per cent of the people. But we will see that the scheduled Caste and Tribe families come up above the poverty line and that is how our programmes will work out.

Most of the Hon. Members have raised the question of land distribution. I agree with some of the points raised by the Hon.

Members that in some cases there are instances where implementation is not done or it is not done as it should have been done. I have the figures from the Rural Development Ministry, because this work is done by that Ministry. According to the information gathered by them up to July 1985, 13.53 lakh acres of surplus land has been distributed among 12.70 lakh beneficiaries belonging to the Scheduled Castes and out of this 5.95 lakh acres have been distributed among 5.27 lakh Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. It will be seen that out of 13.53 lakh acres 12.70 lakh acres of land has been distributed already, till July 1985 and 5.95 lakh acres have been distributed among 5.27 lakh Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries.

Now, a question has been asked about the Patta, and possession of the land. In most of the cases clear instructions have been issued from the Government that they should be given patta and possession forthwith. In most of the cases it is done also. Now, the question is whether it is fertile land, or agricultural land or only some land just in name. It is for the district administration and for the State Government to look into all these things, and we will again instruct the State Governments to take special care about this aspect when the land is distributed to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, that they are not just lands that are thrown to them but they should be lands which can be utilised by them. As far as I know these surplus lands are demarcated by the Gram Sabhas, or the Gram Panchayats, or the Gram Mukhyas. As far as I know, they are all good lands, good for cultivation, and I have information from Uttar Pradesh and some of the other States that they are cultivable lands and that they are being cultivated. So there are some Scheduled Caste families who are doing agriculture on those lands which they got from the surplus land distributed to them. I understand that more land can be distributed to SC/STs. But some of the big landlords have gone to the courts and because of the pending litigation this distribution is delayed. Otherwise, there is every intention of the Government to distribute land to landless people.

We have been sending to State Governments guidelines from time to time about the appropriate measures which should be taken by them in distribution of lands to SC and STs and also to ensure that the

allottees of these lands are not dis-possessed. If there is any case of victimisation or committing of atrocities on SC and STs by the big landlords, then stringent measures should be taken against them and they should be dealt with severely.

Hon'ble Members have mentioned about the atrocities committed on SC and STs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As you know, Scheduled Castes people from the most vulnerable section of our society especially in the villages. As I said, it is a socio-economic problem. As you know, Government has fixed minimum wages. If any SC man or poor labourer asks for a just wage, then the upper class or landed class people in the villages not only refuse to give him the just wage, but they threaten him also. This type of atrocity is there. We have to work for its eradication. It is the task of every social and political worker. This can be eradicated only when this type of awakening is there in the society. We have abolished untouchability under the Constitution. PCR is also there. But how many people go to the court and how many people come to give evidence? Even if some cases are registered or some people go to the court, after some time there is no evidence or due to lack of evidence, they are not prosecuted. Again the Scheduled Caste man is victimised. Since he has to live in the village he becomes the eye-sore of the high caste people.

As far as the problem of bonded labour is concerned, this is also related to the socio-economic condition of the Scheduled Castes. One of the Hon. Members was saying that people from Orissa have gone to Tehri Garhwal and they are living there as bonded labour. Since those people are poor people the contractor has taken them from Orissa to that place and is giving them low wages. They have entered into the contract with the contractor because they were not getting enough wage or employment in Orissa. From other areas also people go from one place to another for doing the work. But as you all know, Government is now seized of the problem of bonded labour. We have dealt with this problem in the Sixth Five Year Plan, and during the Seventh Plan also, those bonded labourers who will be freed from the bondage of contractors, will be rehabilitated. Enough

money has been kept in the plan for this purpose. Though this subject is dealt with by the Labour Ministry, but the identification of bonded labour, their liberation and their rehabilitation is done by the State Governments. I do agree that it is a shame for all of us that bonded labourers are still existing in our country though we have abolished the bonded labour system by law. The law does not permit it but these poor people are still exploited by the contractors because of their economic condition.

Some Hon. Members have raised the question of educational development of Scheduled Castes. I accept that the percentage of education among the Scheduled Castes is lower and among the Scheduled Tribes it is much lower. If we can give education to this class, then only there will be a real change in the society. During the Seventh Plan, efforts will be made to see that education is spread to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population and more schools are opened for this purpose. Special coaching classes to enable them to successfully compete in medical, engineering and other competitive examinations are being conducted. There are coaching schools and coaching centres at so many places, but still we have to put more efforts to see that their quality is improved. One of the Hon. Members was just saying that nobody from these coaching centres has come out in the competitive examinations. So, we have to see to all these things.

So far as the post-metric scholarship is concerned, we have already revised the rate. The rates were last revised in July 1981 and the proposal to further revise the amount is under consideration. There are other schemes like the construction of girls' hostels, book banks and pre-matric scholarships for the children of parents engaged in occupations like scavenging, tanning and claying. These are being continued. Some of the Hon. Members have mentioned during discussion that till today scavenging is not removed and that night-soil is taken on the head by the sweepers. In this connection I may inform the House that my Ministry is going to take up this programme in a big way. We have to invest much more money on this and to see that this problem is removed completely. We will select cities and towns where we will

[Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai]

concentrate and remove the problem of sweepers and scavangers completely. We will not do it in parts, because then the problem remains. If we take up the whole city, then there will be no scavanging or sweeper problem there. Then we can go on to second and third city and like that we can continue to remove this problem.

Our Government is fully aware of the problem of crimes committed against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We have taken several positive steps and have issued guidelines to States so that it can be prevented. We have given guidelines to the State Governments that they have to take strong and corrective action in that regard. The Home Minister had already written to all the Chief Ministers about this and I also after assuming the charge of Welfare Ministry have written on 15th of November to all the Chief Ministers about this and have given guidelines for dealing the crimes with punitive, preventive and rehabilitative measures. We have also suggested to the States to appoint officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in senior field posts like that of District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police, Sub-divisional Officers etc. in the districts which are sensitive from the point of view of crimes against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We will also see that the guidelines are followed by the State Government.

We also took up with the State Governments the recommendations of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding enhanced rates of compensation to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe victims of crimes. We have taken up with the State Governments to see that the people who are victims of atrocities, are given compensation at higher rates.

A large number of States have replied to the Centre that they have adopted this and they have enhanced the compensation. I have personally written to the State Chief Ministers stressing the need for strengthening the administration especially at the level of the senior administrative and police officers in the districts. I have also emphasised the need for proper training of officers which include imparting of skills and to persuade

these people to give up wrong attitudes. This attitude of mind is one of the most important things. Such people with wrong attitude are prone to commit such types of crimes on Harijans and Girijans. We have therefore to create an atmosphere in this country in the city as well as in the village areas, so that the whole attitude gets changed. They should all feel that these people ought not to be exploited. If we are successful in changing their attitude, then the whole approach will change and we will be able to prevent these types of crimes which are going on in some places against Harijans.

Then, some of the Hon. Members mentioned that the post of Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been lying vacant for quite some time. It is true that it has been lying vacant for some time. But it has been due to certain practical difficulties. Now all these things have been sorted out. I am happy to tell you that the person concerned has been selected for the post and he will be joining soon.

As far as the question of reservation of seats is concerned, I can assure the honourable House that there is no intention on the part of the Government to dilute it. Whatever we have decided upon on our reservation policy is very clear. We want to stick to it. Whatever constitutional guarantees are provided to these communities, we want that reservation should be given to them and it should be strictly implemented also. In this respect, I was told that there may be some backlog but the Central Government, for the last 4 or 5 years, are doing their utmost to see that these reservation quotas are fulfilled and more or less this is fulfilled. This subject is dealt with by the Department of Personnel and Training. We will also be in touch with the Department and we will see that our commitment with regard to reservation is fulfilled. There is no question of Government not wanting to do it or Government avoiding to do it. The question is this : As you know, in the working of this scheme, in some of the States, some problems may arise. They take examination; nobody could come; they give them a second chance; all these problems are there. So the accumulated effect is that the backlog is there. We should try to improve the position. We are thinking about all these things. We are discussing all these things and trying to

improve these matters. I will keep in mind the concern shown by Hon. Members in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : What arrangements have you made to punish those officers who are showing indifference towards reservation and are not filling up the reserved posts and are showing carelessness in this regard ?

[*English*]

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : I cannot say it outright that some authorities are purposely doing it or not doing it. I cannot say. But if there is any specific case which is brought to our notice, we will certainly look into it.

I am grateful to all the Members who have shown great interest by participating in the discussion, for their valuable suggestions.

Now, as you know, the economic development of these Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, eradication of their poverty and bringing them above the poverty line is our main programme in the 20-point programme, and for that we have to work hard. We still have a long distance to cover. It is not that we have achieved everything, I am aware of all this and for that only we will work hard. And we want cooperation from all sections of the people, voluntary organisations and others, so that with the joint effort we can tackle this joint problem prevailing in our society. What I am saying is, to end all this social and economic discrimination for which the community suffers, we have to work very hard and at the same time other economic development and all such things will help in their betterment.

Once again, I thank all Members who have participated in the debate for their valuable observations.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have only one point to make and I will take only one minute.

Member after Member had insisted that the findings made and also the recommendations offered in these annual reports should be accompanied with a report as to the action taken by the Government of India, and I would like my Hon. friend, the Minister in charge of this to take special note of that and then see that hereafter in particular the report on the one side, the findings and the action taken by the Central Government on the other side are submitted in order to see that the State Governments share their duties towards these long neglected people who deserve protection from both the State Governments and the Central Government and they are adequately protected. As you all know, the Gandhi Peace Mission long time ago published a report in regard to bonded labour and they said that lakhs of them are still suffering from that bondage and there were official representatives both parliamentary as well as administrative, who were prepared to condemn the Peace Mission's Report and then question its accuracy. Now, we find that their report was more correct and these people's denials were absolutely incorrect. How could such things happen ? Therefore, in regard to every finding that the Commission makes and the recommendation that it offers, State by State we should have a report from year to year as to what is happening in these various States, which State is fulfilling its responsibilities, which State is lagging behind, to what extent and so on. Then we can leave it to the public opinion. They are dependent on public opinion as we are dependent here. Therefore, public opinion we can try to assert itself for the protection of these people. I have this suggestion that has been made not only by me, but by so many Members more or less unanimously would be taken very serious note of and is implemented.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want one clarification. Though the Government is taking keen interest in the matters of Harijans and Adivasis and is issuing instructions, but the officers are not implementing them. For this, the Hon. House had enacted the Civil Rights Protection Act. It was provided in that...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why, the Hon. Minister has written to the concerned State Government to carry on measures relating to these things. She has taken interest in it. She has already stated about that. She has already written the letter. She will follow it up.

[Translation]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN : No State Government is paying any heed to those orders. What action is being contemplated against the officers who are not implementing the orders ? This is happening in the matters of Harijans only, that is what is more disturbing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called the Hon. Minister of Labour. He is already on his legs.

DOCK WORKERS (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Indian Dock Labourers Act, 1934, the Regulations framed thereunder, the Dock Workers' Regulation of Employment Act, 1948 and the schemes framed thereunder, at present, deal with the matters relating to the protection against accident of workers employed in loading and unloading of goods in ships and the safety, health and welfare of such workers. These also take care of the ILO Convention concerning protection against accidents to workers employed in loading and unloading of ships.

The 1934 Act applies to workers engaged on board the ship or along side the ship. This does not cover work done in any other area of the Ports and Docks. This also does not provide for measures for health and welfare of such workers. Further, the Act does not cover workers engaged on work which is incidental to loading and unloading opera-

tions, such as work in relation to preparation of ships for receipt of cargo, including transit sheds, warehouse, yards, sidings, workers engaged in chipping, painting or cleaning and the like. The 1948 Act takes care of safety of all dock workers other than those engaged in ships. The law also does not apply to minor ports. Over the last three decades, the cargo handling process have changed considerably. Mechanisation has come into operation in a big way. The nature of cargoes have changed. There are cargoes which are dangerous and toxic. There are oil tankers, heavy machinery, etc.

There is no proper system for reporting of accidents, conduct of enquiries, fixing of responsibilities, as there are ship owners, employees of ship owners who act as agents, and other principal employers. The powers of the Inspectors of Dock Safety are not adequate. They have to be given powers for prohibiting handling of cargo when the conditions in the work-place is dangerous to life, safety or health of dock workers.

In these circumstances, the Government had considered it necessary to bring out a comprehensive legislation to cover all aspects of safety, health and welfare of dock workers. We have also taken care to provide for stringent penalties for violation of law. This law, when given effect to, will make enforcement easier, check the occupation risks involved in dock work and a proper machinery would be available for going into accidents in ports and docks.

The Hon. Members would no doubt appreciate that the Bill provides for welfare measures for the dock workers and is in the interest of the working class. With these words, I move the Bill for consideration and request that it may be passed.

I beg to move,

"That the Bill to provide for the safety, health and welfare of dock workers and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

**273 Dock Workers (Safety, AGRAHAYANA 8, 1907 (SAKA) Dock Workers (Safety, 274
Health & Welfare) Bill**

"That the Bill to provide for the safety, health and welfare of dock workers and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

12.49 hrs.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the Government has chosen to bring this Bill before Parliament even at the late stage. However, the Bill does not give much protection to the workers. The provisions enshrined in the Bill do not give much scope for improving the workers safety, health and welfare. I feel that it is only a half-hearted attempt. They have not gone all out to improve their lot. There are many Clauses which are highly ambiguous and which can be twisted. And the tenor of the Bill goes to show that, even though some rights have been created in favour of the workers, at the same time there are also some Clauses infringement of which will attract punishment to the workers. So, I give a qualified support to this Bill.

Before the introduction of this Bill, the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Bill, there were two Acts, namely, the Indian Dock Labourers Act, 1934, and the Dock Workers Regulation of Employment Act, 1948 and one scheme, namely, the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Scheme, 1961, with regard to the safety, health and welfare of the workers. Now, the Government has come forward, to consolidate all these three measures, with this Bill. The first thing I would like to urge on the Government is this. In order to improve the safety, health and welfare of the workers, a mere legislation like this is not enough. The Bill does not say whether their remuneration is being increased, whether their wages are being increased, whether there will be any hospital where they can take treatment in the event of accidents, and so on. All these things have been left untouched by this Bill. Without any improvement in their pecuniary conditions, I do not think this Bill will be of much help to the workers.

Secondly, this Bill gives vast powers to the inspectors. If a worker suffers any injury

in an accident while working, normally he can go to the court of law and prosecute the management. But here under Clause 17(2), it has been stated that no prosecution can be launched without the consent or the previous sanction of the inspector. Suppose a worker meets with an accident or contracts a disease. What is the remedy ? The inspector can be won over by the management. In such a case, when the inspector does not give his consent for the prosecution, what is the remedy given to the worker in this Bill ? The Bill is silent on that. To that extent, it goes against the interests of the workers.

Then there are two more Clauses, Clause 11 and Clause 14, whereunder for infringement the worker can be punished with an imprisonment for three months or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees or with both. Here one of the peculiar things is that these two Clauses, namely, 11 and 14, can be twisted in such a manner that they can punish the worker even for any trade union activity. If a worker takes the lead and tries to guard the interests of workers or tries to unite them, he can be punished. These two Clauses go against the interests of the workers. These two Clauses can be twisted in such a way that the workers can be punished.

Now, take Clause 10. It provides that if a worker contracts a disease while being under the charge of the Dock or suffers an accident, Government can appoint a person to hold an inquiry into the causes and make a report. After the person has made the inquiry, what happens, what is the safety provided to the workers, how the interests of the workers are to be safeguarded, how the worker is to be treated, what is the compensation to be paid to him, on these things the Bill is silent, the Bill does not say anything. He may have to proceed under other Acts which may be there. But when you are trying to bring a comprehensive measure to help the workers, why don't you include in this Bill itself everything—after the person has given the inquiry report how the worker has contracted the disease, how he met with the accident, what is to be done, in the event of death occurring on account of the accident what is the action to be taken, what is the compensation to be given, etc. It would have been very good if these two things had been included in the Bill.

[*Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy*]

There are some definitions which are very peculiar in clause 2 (g). It says :

"Principal employer", in relation to a dock worker employed or to be employed by or through any agency (including a contractor)..."

Here, you are giving a lot of preference to the contractor. He can utilise this contract to squeeze the workers. The management may also say that if the workers come through the contractor they will take them otherwise no. So, it is always better that this clause is modified, because the contractor can act in a way which is detrimental to the workers.

As far as Clause 5 is concerned, it is a peculiar thing. It says :

"If it appears to an Inspector that any place at which any dock work is being carried on is in such a condition that it is dangerous to life, safety or health of dock workers, he may, in writing, serve on the owner or on the person in charge of such place an order prohibiting any dock work in such place until measures have been taken to remove the cause of the danger to his satisfaction."

By this clause you have given enormous powers to the inspector. If the inspector thinks that there is some danger for the work, he can immediately give a notice to the management to stop the work. Inspectors are after all small officers. They can be manoeuvred, they can easily be purchased by them. It adds to the detriment of the workers. If inspectors merely think that there is nothing there, it is finished. He appears to be the total authority. The wide powers given by clause 5 to the inspectors can be used either to the detriment of the management or if the inspector is taken over by the management, they can be used for the detriment of the workers. So, Clause 5 results in a lot of damage to the workers.

Then we go to clause 6. If the inspector is supposed to go and inspect, the management has to produce all the books to him

for inspection. If he does not see, what is going to happen ?

A man is punishable under Clause 14. It says :

"...shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both."

Does this act as a substantial deterrent ? This punishment is not deterrent. He can, after all, pay Rs. 5,000 easily. Whenever a sentence is there "either fine or imprisonment", the court usually grants only the fine. He can easily pay Rs. 5,000. So, this sentence is not a deterrent. It is better to make it slightly more deterrent. Even for the second offence also, it is punishable with double the punishment, that means one year imprisonment or Rs. 10,000 fine. Because that "or" is there, a man can escape with the payment of fine. Under these circumstances, the substantial deterrent is not there. This section does not deter a man, does not act as a deterrent for the man not to act. Suppose he can pay Rs. 5,000 and allow the inspector to go and inspect the ship, he can catch hold of the books and do something in favour. So, this clause must be made more deterrent. Otherwise it cannot serve the purpose for which it is meant.

The inspector is given the powers to prosecute, conduct or defend a case. As far as these things are concerned, when a man is to defend a case or conduct a case, is it correct to give this under 4(i) ? In order to safeguard the rights of the workers, under Clause 9 an Advisory Committee has been contemplated to be constituted. What are the powers of the Advisory Committee ? This committee is supposed to advise the Government as to the rights of the workers and as to the nature of the things that are going on and to improve the lot of the workers. Now I feel that this Advisory Committee is very, very toothless and no definite work is allotted to it. What is the Government going to do if the Advisory Committee says that in such and such dock there is a defect and it has to be removed ? Then the Advisory Committee's recommendations are not binding on the Government. There is no clause there that their advice is to be looked into, that it

will be considered and that it will be favourably implemented. When such a clause is not there, clause 9 may become superfluous.

In this Bill, we have resorted to a lot of delegated legislation. This is an Act whereby most of the workers' rights are curbed. Suppose something takes place and the dock workers feel agitated over it and they adopt a position to do something, then it is not possible and their activities are also assailed. When such is the case, under delegated legislation, wide powers are given to the government under clauses 12, 20 and 21 to frame rules. The executive authority has been clothed with wide powers. If the executive authority does not frame the rules favourable to the workers, what are the workers to do? Usually they are to be placed before Parliament for 30 days and they will remain there and after the expiry of 30 days they will be an automatic law. When the Parliament finds out and tries to amend it, both Houses have to agree. There, this delegated legislation has to be looked into further.

One thing more. As far as pre-publication under clause 22 is concerned, it is a very good provision because where the workers' rights are taken away, the clause has enjoined that there must be pre-publication and for 45 days they will remain there and so the workers may know what is there and they may make any representation if they want and they can be modified. So this provision regarding pre-publication before framing the rules is a very good provision.

With these words, I support this Bill.

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till Fourteen of the clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after
Lunch at ten minutes past
fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**DOCK WORKERS (SAFETY,
HEALTH AND WELFARE)
BILL—Contd.**

[English]

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) :
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Labour Minister, Anjiah Ji for bringing forward a very comprehensive Bill for the safety, health and welfare of the dock workers. The Bill has plugged many of the loopholes in the previous Acts. The Hon. Minister has taken pains to see that the loopholes pointed out by many other trade unions are completely plugged.

In the present Bill, there is a clear definition given for the dock work, dock workers employer, principal employer etc. Two new posts of Inspector and Chief Inspector have also been created so that these officials can go to the various parts of the ports, see the problems for themselves and take suitable action. Any trade union man connected with the ports can very well see that this is one of the major piece of legislation to help the port workers.

In this connection, I would like to point out a very serious problem faced by our Dock Labour Boards. Almost all the Dock Labour Boards in the major ports are facing a crisis due to the heavy financial losses suffered by them. What is the reason? The reason is that there is a three-tier system in our ports. One is the steamer agents representing the ship owners, then the stevedoring agents, and then the Dock Labour Boards. The stevedoring agents enter into an agreement with the steamer agents for the loading and unloading of the cargo on the basis of the tonnage of the cargo handled. Then the same stevedoring agents take the workers on the basis of gangs and they make payment to the Dock Labour Boards on the basis of the number of gangs taken. The stevedoring agents get money on the basis of the cargo and they pay to the Dock Labour Boards on the basis of number of workers taken. There is a serious complaints against the workers that they are taking the ghost or 'speed' money. What is the reason? The reason is that these stevedoring agents who want to speed up their work on the basis of tonnage go to the workers through the back door and pay them a little more. That is the

[Prof. K. V. Thomas]

'ghost' or 'speed' money, and they complain to the general public that the workers are harassing them.

Though it does not come in your portfolio, my suggestion is that this system of stevedoring has to be completely stopped. The agreement should be between Dock Labour Boards and the Steamer Agents. In Calcutta, a decision was taken by the Port that for the import of cement and the export of gunny, the agreement should be on the basis of tonnage and not on the basis of number of gangs given between the DLB. Calcutta and this stevedoring agency. But this stevedoring agency disagreed. So, these middlemen, i.e. the stevedoring agency has to be completely removed. Then only, the port will be saved more cargo traffic will be there and workers will be getting better benefits.

Many of the DLB workers finish their work after midnight. They have to go back to their houses which are very far away from the Port. But there is no transport facility and even the night-shelter provided for them is not adequate. The canteen facilities are also not adequate.

There is another problem. If you make a survey, you will find that a large number of these dock workers are suffering from tuberculosis. What is the reason? They are handling materials which are dusty and they are inhaling lot of dust. That is why many of them are suffering from tuberculosis. Effective measures are to be taken against this. But what about the hospital facilities? Even though the workers connected with the Port Authorities have better facilities in the hospitals, these DLB workers do not have any such facilities. We should have efficient and better hospital facilities for the DIB workers. Look at the plight of the hospitals in our ports. You may be having MBBS doctors there, but if you want specialists, you cannot find them anywhere, in the hospitals in the port area. The reason is, if you want to have a FRCS man or if you want to have a specialist, they have to be given better salaries; but you are not giving better salaries. So the specialists do not want to go and work in the port hospitals, and there is no post-graduate doctor or a specialised doctor

there. I would like to suggest that for better health programmes of the workers, specialists ought to be brought into the hospitals of the port.

My another suggestion is that at least one dependent of the DIB worker should be given employment in the vacancies arising in the ports. Similarly, 'the dying in harness' cases should be given the top most importance. In my constituency, in the Cochin Port, which is a major port, the 'dying in harness' cases are pending for years. These cases should be viewed sympathetically.

Another point is, we have not made any scientific study on the manpower requirements for each port. There are a very large number of casual workers. We should make a scientific study on the manpower requirements and then on the basis of that study, wherever possible, these casual workers should be made permanent. Thousands and thousands of casual workers everyday go to the port and there they are told that there is no work. So, they go back. This is a very pathetic situation. Therefore, a proper study has to be made. One year ago, a study was conducted by the Secretary, Shri Abraham. The recommendations of that study have been sent to the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Labour. These recommendations have to be gone through and implemented. With these words, I support this Bill which has been put forward by the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words on the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Bill, 1985. I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. I also welcome the repealing of the outdated Dock Labour Act, 1934. I hope that very soon the necessary amendments would be brought to the Dock Workers Regulation of Employment Act.

Sir, the Dock Workers Safety, Health and Welfare Scheme was started in 1961. Though this scheme was in force during the past 24 years, it has not done good to the

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

dock workers. It is common knowledge that the dock workers are engaged in hazardous jobs. They have to unload heavy and sophisticated machinery and equipment and raw material meant for industrial development of the country and then to take them to godowns. Similarly, they have to load our export commodities also. They have to clean the ships and make them ready for sailing. I have seen personally how they do such hazardous jobs in Madras harbour.

We have the Dock Labour Board, but unfortunately this Board is not able to deliver the goods. The dock workers are employed with the assistance of workers. These contractors swallow a substantial portion of the wages of the dock workers. Most of the dock workers sleep on the footpaths outside the Ports. These contractors do not provide housing facilities for them. I take this opportunity to demand that the contractors system should be abolished. The Port trust should set up a separate organisation for this purpose. This organisation should provide housing facilities for the dock workers. The Port Trust should provide them with necessary money for this purpose.

The International Shippers Organisation has been complaining that the ships are detained for a long duration by our country. One of the reasons might be that the harbour itself lacks in adequate berthing facilities, leading to this delay. The other reason is that on account of lack of primary and basic facilities for the dock workers they are not able to exert themselves effectively. They do not have houses; they do not get medical facilities. They do not get nourishing food. They are exploited by the contractors. During rainy seasons they load and unload goods without any cover. How do you expect them to work for 8 hours in these adverse circumstances?

It is not enough that we appoint the Chief Inspector and Inspectors for ensuring their welfare. Arrangements must be made for installing modern safety equipment in the ports. It must also be ensured that such equipment is operated properly. They must be constantly supervised. The dock workers must get immediate medical attention if they are injured. The compensation to the families of workers who die in harness must be given without delay. Those contractors

who do not provide the dock workers with primary facilities must be punished deterrently. Such contractors should be removed from the rolls of the Port Trust. The punishment for them should also be enhanced.

Our Hon. Labour Minister should also formulate the Dock Workers Accident Insurance Scheme. Sir, our Hon. Labour Minister, Shri Anjiah is the real representative of the workers of the country, as he himself was a worker. There is no doubt that he will implement the provisions of this Bill for the benefit of the dock workers. We should bear in mind that the dock workers play a vital and significant role in the industrial development and in the economic development of the country. We should not hesitate to provide them with basic facilities for their living. In the major ports of Calcutta, Madras, Cochin, Kandla, Paradeep, Marmagoa, Visakhapatnam, New Mangalore and New Tuticorin several thousand dock workers are giving their blood and sweat for the industrial growth of the country. I demand that concerted attempts must be made to raise their standard of living and to provide them effective safety in their day to day work. Their welfare programmes must receive the highest priority in the hands of the Government.

With these few words, I welcome this Bill and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : The main purpose of this Bill is to incorporate provisions of the previous three Bills. My point is that the provisions for safety and welfare for the dock workers were also there in the previous Bills, but actually the government or the management was not interested in implementing those Bills properly.

If we see their working conditions, we will find that they are very bad, as far as safety and health is concerned, in spite of those acts of omission and commission. Generally, the loading and unloading from the ships is being done by the middle man, the clearing agents. They engage thousands of casual workers and they have to work under severe conditions. The Central Government have announced that they are

[Shri Ajoy Biswas]

interested in removing the contract system, but in the dock the same system is actually prevailing. When the main functions of the dock are being done by the middle man, the plight of the thousands of casual workers knows no bounds. I have definitely an objection against this Bill.

There is no attempt on the part of the government to change their service conditions. In every sector, the middle man system or contract system is now being abolished. So, I request the government to bring forward another Bill so that at least the conditions of the dock workers improve and the bonded labour system should go.

The canteen facilities are very meagre. There should be some provision in the Bill by which canteen facilities and other type of facilities can be extended to the dock workers. No doubt doctors are there, but their health condition is serious. The doctors do not provide any service for the dock workers. The management engages the doctors. But actually, the workers are not getting the benefits.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : If there is no dispensary what is to be done ?

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Dispensary is there, but actually the facilities are meagre. I, therefore, request the Government to provide more facilities and more dispensaries to ensure that the facilities are available to the dock workers.

With these words I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Shanti Dhariwal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully support and welcome the Bill presented by the Hon. Labour Minister for the safety, health and welfare of the dock workers. I also want to thank the Hon. Minister that he has put in a lot of labour in preparing this Bill intended to improve the living standard of the dock workers and ensuring their safety and welfare.

While welcoming the Bill, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether before bringing this Bill, any survey was conducted to know about the condition of the dock workers and the problems afflicting them in relation to their safety welfare and health ? If any such survey was conducted, then mention should have been made of their problems in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. This Bill has been brought forward quite belatedly. There were many shortcomings in the Dock Workers Acts of 1934 and 1948. The definition of 'Dock work' and the 'Dock Worker' was also very narrow. These have now been made comprehensive through this Bill, which is a welcome step, because with the widening of the definition the rights of the dock workers will now be protected more effectively and the people violating the law will get suitable punishment.

In this Bill provision made for appeal against the orders of the Inspector and the Chief Inspector is also a laudable step and constitution of an Advisory Committee on administrative matter is also a welcome step. But I would like to submit to the Hon. Labour Minister that in these Advisory Committees the representatives of the labour unions must be included.

It has been provided in clause 12 of the Bill that exemption to any port, dock or wharf where traffic is small or to the fishing vessels will be given only after the notification in the Official Gazette has been published. Instead of doing this, a survey should have been made first to know as to which are the ports, dock and wharfs where safety health and welfare of the dock workers would be adversely affected and where small ships and fishing vessels are used or where traffic is small, and those places should have been exempted through this Bill itself. In the absence of this, the people working in small ports, docks and wharfs will have to run to the Ministeries of the Government and will have to face difficulties unnecessarily and rules relating to big docks will be imposed on them also.

I, therefore, hope that the Hon. Minister will consider my suggestion. On the whole I welcome this Bill. It is a very good Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri K.S. Rao.

There is lot of time for you because all of them are concluding quickly.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. It is known that the Hon. Minister Shri Anjiah had on many an occasion brought several legislations in favour of the workers to this House. Now he is bringing this Bill for the welfare of the dock workers also. Particularly to think of the health and safety of the dock workers in a comprehensive way and making provisions in the Bill, is admirable. But I am only a little sceptical about some of the clauses.

In clause 2(e) it is incorporated that the "dock worker" means a person employed or to be employed directly or indirectly. If the intention of the Hon. Minister is to safeguard the health and welfare of a person who suffers injury or accident irrespective of the fact whether he is employed there or not, it is commendable. But in case a stranger, whether with permission or without permission, comes to the area and suffers some injury, then he will also have to be paid as per this Bill. But if a bad element were to take advantage of this and tries to extract money, then it will be a great burden on the exchequer.

In clause 4(d) the Bill has given enough powers to the Inspectors to stop work if they feel that it is dangerous. It is good. This will help in prevention of such dangerous things or accidents. But in the proviso of the same clause it is mentioned that no person shall be compelled to answer any question or give any evidence tending to incriminate himself. I do not think anybody will answer questions unless compelled or forced. So, the Inspector must be permitted to get evidence even if it requires compulsion; otherwise nobody will come forward to give evidence. I request the Hon. Minister to think on this aspect also.

I am happy that in one way he is doing a great help to the entire working community. His heart is for their health and safety. But

at the same time, he must also see to the other side. I mean, he must make enough provisions to prevent workers not to do wrong things. In clause 11(1) it is mentioned that no worker shall wilfully interfere with or misuse, neglect, etc. Obviously this will keep the workers conscious of their duties as well as with their privileges. They will know that they will be penalised in case they go on the wrong side. In fact, this attitude is necessary for implementing the policy of the Government. It is not just blindly supporting one side or the other but every caution must be given to both sides that in case they go out of their way, they will be punished.

In clause 7(3) there is a provision for secrecy information of given about defects or irregularities or breach of any legal provisions. Even if the Government agency fails to find out the defect or breach of provisions, this section enables the Government to know of the defects through informants. But I request the Minister to find out whether any incentive can be given to the people who inform about the breach of provisions or defects or irregularities. These incentive will help the authority in knowing them and rectifying them in time.

I wish extensive publicity also must be given among the workers about these provisions so that they may know where to go and when to go and what will be the results of it. It is not enough simply to make an Act and keep it to ourselves or bring to the notice of the employers alone. These things must be published or kept on the notice board for giving extensive publicity among the workers.

As regards the Advisory Committee, provision is made for the appropriate Governments, dock workers and the employers of the dock workers. That is good. But all these people are connected with the working of docks in one way or the other. Even if there were to be some mistakes in their day to day work, they might not be able to express their minds openly to get those things corrected. Therefore, I wish if an outsider from public who is a man of integrity, rational thinking and boldness, having special knowledge of these things, could be included among the members of the Advisory Committee so that the real purpose of the Advisory Committee could be achieved.

[Shri K. S. Rao]

As regards the disclosure of secrecy, if the secrecy is disclosed, six months imprisonment is provided for the Inspector and three months for the worker, if he goes wrong. This clearly indicates the favour shown to the workers rather than to the Inspector or an officer or an employee. It is good that the worker must be given the advantage, but then this should not be taken lightly by the worker, or it should not be in his mind that the Government will not act seriously on these things. Strict implementation of these things, both by the workers and the employers, will certainly give dividends. It is in the interest of both. The Minister and the concerned officials must keep it in their mind and see that the results are achieved.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI R. ANNANAMBI (Pollachi) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on the Dock Workers Safety, Health and Welfare Bill, 1985. Sir, this Bill is the reflection of the commitment of our Hon. Labour Minister for the welfare of dock workers whose sweat and blood contribute substantially to the country's economic and industrial development.

Sir, you are aware of the fact that the workers are the backbone of the country and if the workers' interests are neglected then naturally this backbone gets weakened with the consequence of irreparable damage to the nation as a whole. I am proud and in fact I am honoured to extend my wholehearted support to this Bill which seeks to provide safety, health and welfare to the dock workers. Our Hon. Labour Minister, Thiru Anjiah, is the genuine representative of the workers of the country and starting his life as a worker he has become now the saviour of the workers. He knows the problems of workers of this country and I am sure that he will usher in an era of contentment and joy for the workers of this country. This Bill reflects truly his concern for the dock workers, as I mentioned at the outset.

In the major ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam, Cochin,

New Mangalore, etc. thousands of dock workers are engaged in doing jobs for the progress of the nation. Annually our import-export trade is to the tune of several thousands of crores. In this the role of dock workers cannot be minimised. If the dock workers go on strike, the economic and industrial activities come to a standstill. This is known to all of us and we have experienced this on several occasions.

In 1961 the Dock Workers Welfare Scheme was started. After 24 years we have come to realise that this scheme has not delivered the goods to the dock workers. This has necessitated the introduction of this Bill. I want to emphasise that we should not take another 24 years to find out that the provisions of this Bill have not been successfully implemented. In other words, I want that the Hon. Labour Minister should ensure expeditious implementation of the laudable provisions of this Bill.

We cannot refute that the dock workers are engaged in hazardous work. On account of lack of berthing facilities in the harbour, the ships are berthed on the high seas. The dock workers go in their boats and unload the previous plan and machinery for industrial development of the country. Similarly, they are also loading precious exports, which earn valuable foreign exchange. You can imagine the freight which we get when we look at the sea from the shore. These people weather all the storms and deliver the goods. When the ships are berthed in the ports, through cranes huge packets are brought on the shore. They are carried on the heads and on the backs by the dock workers to the godowns. I have seen the dock workers becoming the beasts of burden in Madras Port. But they do not get the basic minimum facilities. They do not get nourishing and nutritious food. They do not have pucca houses to live. They do not have places to rest after the day's hard work. This compels them to sleep on the pavements outside the Port. They are also being exploited by the contractors. I demand that the contracting system must be abolished in regard to the employment of dock workers. The Port Trust should prepare muster rolls of these workers and employ them for loading and unloading. Then only they will get proper wages for their hard work. The Hon. Minister should also bring forward a comprehensive Dock

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

Workers Accident Insurance scheme on all-India level. The dock workers should get medical attention in the ESI hospitals, as the Port Trust hospitals are unable to meet their full medical requirement. The employers and the companies which do not provide them basic minimum facilities should be given deterrent punishment.

Before I conclude I would refer to another important issue. The dock workers elect their chosen leader for highlighting their genuine problems with the concerned authorities. The formation of Union is their discretion. This practice is prevalent in many Ports. All such Unions must be given recognition by the authorities. When labour problems arise, the leaders of all such Trade Unions must be invited for talks and resolution of the problems. But in Tamil Nadu, at Madras Port the authorities prefer to invite only certain select leaders of favoured Unions for settling the labour disputes. I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to this aspect of the working of the authorities. Naturally some time the demands raised by the workers whose Unions have not been invited for talks are not heeded to and this creates discontentment in the minds of such workers. They resort to strike for fulfilling their demands. The result of such strikes is the loss of several lakhs of rupees in a day, which the Government has to bear. Our experienced Labour Minister, who was once upon a time a worker, knows the consequences of not inviting all the leaders of Unions for talks for resolving the labour problems. I take this opportunity to demand that all the Labour Unions must be given recognition and their leaders must be invited for talks when labour disputes arise. Then only there will be overall satisfaction and contentment among the workers. I want that the Hon. Labour Minister must issue directives to the concerned authorities in this matter so that the interests of the workers are safeguarded.

Our Hon. Chief Minister, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran epitomises the hopes and aspirations of the workers in the State. Our Chief Minister has been advocating the concept of one union-one industry which alone will protect the interests of the workers, who are the backbone of the country. I wonder why this concept should not be accepted as a national concept. If the concept of one

union-one industry is implemented throughout the country, this will definitely usher in an era of amity among the workers, industrial peace and harmony and an atmosphere of unity among the workers for the good of the country. This will also create a new work ethos among the labour. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset you may recollect that last time when the Bill regarding the Children's Employment was moved, I had suggested that as far as possible we should have one uniform legislation dealing with all aspects of labour. It is a tremendous task, I agree; we will not be able to have it so soon. But, as far as the Dock Labour is concerned, at least, we should have one common legislation. If you go through the objects of the Bill, you will find that ultimately the Indian Dock Labour Act of 1934 will be repealed no doubt but still the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act of 1948 still remains. We have this Act now for the purpose of Dock Labourers. There should be at least one Act and one legislation. There is no need for keeping that Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act of 1948 separately and this one separately. All these things could be incorporated in one Act. Ultimately, when we pass this legislation, are we providing for safety and welfare in this legislation ? No, Sir. It is not the case.

I will just take you to this clause 21. It says :

- (1) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations consistent with this Act for providing for the safety, health and welfare of dock workers.
- (2) Such regulations may provide for all or any of the following purposes, namely... ." The list is given.

That means, ultimately for safety, health and welfare, we will be issuing some regulations and all the measures will be mentioned

[Shri Shantharam Naik]

in those regulations. So, this Act contains nothing. When we are discussing it, we find that it contains nothing. Ultimately the regulations will contain all those safety measures. Who will issue these regulations ? The appropriate Government. The appropriate Government is the Central Government as far as major ports are concerned and various State Governments as far as other ports are concerned. That means, there are 22 States and there will be 22 regulations, plus one regulation issued by the Central Government, plus the rules framed under this. That means, the entire law relating to health, safety and welfare will be contained in this Act, plus 22 regulations, plus one regulation by the Central Government, plus the rules. This is the state of affairs. You will agree with me—I am not saying with respect to Labour Ministry or any other Ministry. In fact, this is the aspect which will have to be considered at least by the Ministries. We are framing all new policies under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. To implement and enforce these policies we will have to enact new legislations for times to come and in the forthcoming Session there will be immense legislation work done in Parliament. Therefore, we should consider whether we are going to follow the same structure of legislation or we are going to make suitable changes. As a result now, the highest supreme body of the Legislature is not able to enact laws on important matters. We are leaving the matters to rules and regulations. This is not fair. Therefore, it is very difficult to know what are the safety measures. If we have come to know about this, we would have discussed them here, but they are not here. You will see that the rules and regulations will provide for all these things. The regulations will be enacted for these measures and as such, we do not know exactly what measures will be taken, what exactly will be health and safety aspects.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : All are mentioned here.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : If they are mentioned here, what is the need for regulations ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : You read the Bill properly.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : I have seen the entire legislation. Nowhere they are mentioned. All these measures will be in the rules and regulations, not in the main Act. If they are in the main Act, there is no need for regulations. If they are mentioned in the main Act, what will contain in the regulations ? We are providing the major things in the rules and regulations and some broad principles are there in the Act. I have said time and again, the major portion of the law should contain in the Act and some minor things should contain in the rules and regulations. The major thing, that is, 75 per cent, should be enacted in the law.

Secondly, as far as Marmagoa Port Trust is concerned, it is one of the leading international ports. We celebrated recently the 100th year of its existence. It is one of the important ports. Unfortunately, there the welfare of the deck workers was never considered. Hundreds and thousands of rupees were spent on celebrating the 100th year. Ultimately what is accrued to the workers is not given. They were not even given bonus. This is the state of affairs. So, you kindly look into the matter and the other suggestions which I have made.

15.00 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Seventh Report

[English]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th November, 1985."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on

Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th November, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

15.01 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : DEVELOPMENT OF HILL AREAS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up further discussion of the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat. The balance of time is only 26 minutes. I think, we can extend it by 2 hours. Mr. Daga will himself take much time. He is already on his legs.

I think, the House agrees on this.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the purpose behind formulating the plans ? A top officer has said, are we prepared to abandon those methods of formulating plans which help increase the wealth and income of affluent persons ? Are we prepared to formulate such a plan which may bring all persons at par so that there may not be any poor person in the country by the end of Eighth Plan ?...

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

This is the object behind a plan. What was the condition of hill areas previously? By building their bungalows and kothis the rich people have ruined all the hill stations. The question is how to develop hill areas ? I have got with me an article written by Shri Vir Sen, former Minister of Environment. I do not read article of an ordinary person. I like to read the article of our former Ministers only. Please listen to what he has written. He says :

[English]

"Once known as 'land of honey and milk', India now presents a gloomy

picture. The rate of deforestation in our country is 2 hectares per minute due to which nearly one percent of the land surface of the country is being laid bare every year. Though it is claimed that country's 22.7 per cent land surface is covered by forests, the actual forest area is hardly more than ten per cent of the land surface."

[Translation]

The situation is that actual forest area is not even 10 per cent. Your target was to bring 22.7 per cent of land under forests, but actual forest area is less than 10 per cent. He has added that the greatest loss suffered due to this is that soil nutrients have been swept into the sea as a result of which farmers have been put to heavy losses.

[English]

"According to 1972 estimates, with 60,000 million tons of top fertile soil eroded every year, six million tons of soil nutrients are also swept into the sea causing a loss of Rs.7,000 millions. This erosion has now gone upto Rs. 10,000 million per year."

[Translation]

A large amount of soil is swept into the Bay of Bengal. Your forests are being denuded and you want to develop the hill areas. The greatest job is afforestation in the country. The Hon. Minister is new to this department. The Hon. Chairman has extended the time by 2 hours for discussion on this resolution. You have got the full opportunity to express your views. You should reply after considering all the aspects of the matter. A large number of schemes have been formulated in this regard. I would like to know the increase in area brought under forests, the amount spent thereon and the area under forests at present. I would like to point out that despite spending billions of rupees on the development of forests, area under forests has reduced in the Kashmir Valley, Darjeeling and hilly areas of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. In this regard he has said :—

[English]

"Mr. Sunder Lal Bahuguna, the architect of Chipko Movement, rightly says

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

that wealth of the Himalaya is disappearing into the Bay of Bengal."

[Translation]

He has categorically stated that fertile soil is being swept into the Bay of Bengal. The most important thing is that you had made a provision in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of hill areas. A scheme was formulated for developing means of transport in hill areas and you had sanctioned the funds for this purpose, but these funds were not utilised properly. The reasons for non-development of hill areas have been given in this Appraisal Plan. I am not the author of this book. It has been written in it that neither the State Government nor the Centre is co-operating.

[English]

This is the Sixth Five Year Plan, 1980-85.

[Translation]

I am placing before you the facts given in the mid-term appraisal of the plan.

[English]

This is the Review of the performance of the States in both these programmes ? What is that programmes. That is the Hill Area Development Programme.

[Translation]

The economy of hill areas of Uttar Pradesh depend on Money Order. People from hill areas have joined the army. The source of income of these areas is army Jawans. In this way the people of these areas depend on Money Orders. It has been stated in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Plan.

[English]

This is from page 111 of the Sixth Five Year Plan, Mid-Term Appraisal.

"None of the States seems to have worked out a five year perspective in respect of these programmes. Consequently the goals and objectives lack definitional clarity and with available information, monitoring at the state

levels as well as the level of the Planning Commission is difficult."

[Translation]

Neither the Yojna Bhawan has thought of any plan nor the States have formulated any plan. You have got no plan before you so far. It has also been stated in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Sixth Five Year Plan :

[English]

"There is lack of effective monitoring of hill area programme at all levels, as also a general lack of coordination in the multi-level planning effort that is essentially required."

[Translation]

Government is spending money, but States do not formulate any plan. At the instance of Mr. Tiwari, a unit of H.M.T. has been set up in Nainital. If some one from Almora becomes Minister, he will get something else for that area. The present Minister hails from Tamil Nadu. He will say that such and such factory may be set up there.

[English]

That is not the development of hill areas.

[Translation]

I would like to say that economy of hill areas cannot be developed in this way. For the development of hill areas you will have to maintain their scenic beauty and attract tourists there. Today hills are being denuded of forests. No afforestation is taking place in hills. Green trees are not visible there. Instead number of people has increased there. The products grown in hill areas have not been consumed by cattle but by human beings. Cattle have not eaten them. Jungles have been cut on mass scale. Pine trees have been felled down and boxes are made out of its wood for packing apples. In this way heavy damage has been done to forests. The Minister of Environment is sitting here and Shri Patil is also sitting here. Tall talks are made about environment. The environment has been polluted by human beings. It has also been mentioned in this report :

[English]

"Linkages, complementarities and infrastructural and organisational support so essential in these areas are often not perceived or provided for."

[Translation]

What will you do for hill areas now? Transport facilities do not exist in hill areas. You say that you will develop industries in hill areas and backward areas and set up projects there. But who will go there? Neither roads nor trains and other means of communications are there. When such is the situation, the question of going there does not arise. You have not so far made any assessment of the development which has taken place with the funds provided by the Government during the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Hon. Minister is requested to reply to all this while replying to the debate.

I had asked a question earlier also. I would like to ask once again. So far as the question of development of social forestry is concerned, if its development is not made on permanent basis, it will cause heavy loss. Besides, arrangements should also be made to set up pastures for our cattle. If such arrangements are not made, our cattle wealth will suffer heavily.

Sir there is a Hill Area Development Committee. Certain aspects must be kept in mind while formulating the plan. In the resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat, it has been said that we should take such measures as would help development of hill areas. Certain measures are necessary for the development of these areas.

Means of transport are very scanty in hill areas. We do not have easy means of transport there. You should undertake such measures there as would develop the tendency of learning technical jobs among the local people. Besides setting up labour oriented and job oriented projects there, you should initiate certain measures which may develop the tendency among the hill people towards technical advancement so that after learning technical work they can become good mechanics and skilled workers. At present they have no interest in this regard.

Sir, for the development of backward areas you have formulated a scheme to provide subsidy to entrepreneurs, who want to set up industries there. You may also kindly ask public undertakings of the State Governments to set up their units in hill areas. Public Undertakings are not ready to go and set up industries there. They should be asked to set up their units there.

I want to say one thing more. Permission of the Environment Minister should be obtained before formulating any project. If you do not obtain permission and start setting up industry, it will lead to chaos. It is a very important thing. No law has so far been enacted for this purpose. You have repeatedly said that you want to amend the existing law, but nothing has been done so far. Before formulating any project you should ensure that it does not affect environment adversely. Permission for setting up the project should be given only after verifying this aspect. This matter should be considered thoroughly before giving permission for setting up of the project.

Sir, a large number of people live in hill areas. One of the most important aspects of the hill areas is that our culture has been prospering there. Our temples, our religious centres are situated there. Our religious centres are situated in all the hill areas whether it is Gangotri or Kedarnath or Badrinath or Darjeeling. All areas have our pilgrimage centres. The Department of Tourism should also spend some amount for the development of these centres, because these religious centres help the development of tourism also. Janata lodges and 'Yatri Niwas' should be built up there and Tourism Department should invest money there.

I would like to say one thing more. The posting made there should not be a punishment posting. It should not be done. Persons other than sons of M.Ps. and politicians and not enjoying the patronage of Ministers should be posted in hill areas. Those persons should be posted there who have keen interest and dedication for working in hill areas. But you will post them in Bombay and the persons to be posted in cities will be posted in hill areas.

I have seen at Mount Abu Hill Station that bungalows have been constructed there and all the bungalows belong to big officers.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Roberts-ganj) : Brahmukumaries Ashram is also there.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You might be having Brahmukumaries in your mind, but I am having God in my mind.

I was saying that if you pay attention towards such development works, more development will take place.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, no Cabinet Minister is present in the House. It seems all the Cabinet Ministers have gone to the hill station. Let an observation from the Chair be recorded that at least one Cabinet Minister should always be present in the House. If there is none, you elevate those who are present in the House.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : The concerned people are here.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But it is the tradition of the House that one Cabinet Minister is always present. We will abide by whatever direction is given by the Chair. You can vary say that no Cabinet Minister need be present but, I am sure, such a remark will not come from the Chair. We would like that an observation from the Chair is recorded that one Cabinet Minister should always be present.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Chairman Sir, we are discussing the motion on development of hill areas. I would request the Hon. Minister to set up separate development authority for each hill area and insist on the State Governments to do it immediately. So far as Rajasthan is concerned a development council should be set up for Aravali hill area and it should be made responsible to ensure roads, drinking water, electricity and educational facilities in that area. Every year separate allocation of funds should be made in the budget for the development of these things. It has been observed that the State Governments and the Central Government pay very little attention to the development of desert and hill areas. There are innumerable encroachments on the forest lands

and deforestation is resorted to on a massive scale. Just now Shri Daga mentioned that the total area under forests which was 22 per cent has been reduced to 10 per cent now. All the efforts on the part of the State Government as well as the Centre to check it by enacting new laws have proved futile and unsuccessful. Therefore, the entire system needs to be changed and only then the area could be developed and the forests saved. Deforestation is taking place and you are just a silent spectator. This has caused tremendous change in the cycle of seasons. Rains do not come in time and if it does, it is scanty. This is the right time when special attention should be paid for the development of forests and these areas.

Regarding forest land I would like to submit that the people should be allotted those lands which have been cleared of forests and which they are cultivating for the last 25 to 30 years. Similarly, the ravines should be declared forest area and provision should be made for afforestation in the ravines by the Government on a massive scale.

This is an issue which comes under the jurisdiction of the State Governments and the Centre. Necessary provision should be made so that only one Government has the jurisdiction over the entire hill area, particularly the forests, and its laws are enforced there. The people who own small holdings in the hill areas are not provided any facilities either by the State Government or the Central Government. They should be given subsidy in fertilisers or seeds. I have already made a submission with regard to ravines. Just now, Shri Daga had said that large portions of fertile land has been swept into the sea. Similarly, ravines are spreading at a fast speed. We have observed that for the last 10 or 20 years, the budget meant for ravines is not being properly utilised because neither Centre nor State Government is paying any attention to curb it. I would request that besides hill areas special attention should also be paid to forest land and ravines. Officers who are dedicated and sincere, should be appointed for this job.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, I have a point of order. Today there is Half-an-Hour Discussion and the names of the

Memoirs who are to participate in the discussion have not yet been published.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You have raised this point at this time.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : If the names of the Members are not known how will those Members go to the Library and prepare the points to be made in the discussion. The names must have been mentioned on the Notice Board at least by 2 O'clock so that the Members can go to the Library and prepare their speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Shri Harish Rawat which is being discussed in the House at the moment. Shri Daga mentioned just now that our forest wealth has been reduced to 10 per cent or even less than that. This clearly indicates the way the Government are taking interest in the forests and hill areas. Government are not fulfilling their commitment to the hill areas, particularly regarding encouragement to afforestation. On these grounds, I would like to make a few submissions, through you, as I myself belong to a hill State, viz. Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to submit that Kashmir is the most beautiful place in India and a couplet in Persian aptly state :

*Agar firdaus bar-ru-e zamin ast,
Hamin asto, hamin asto, hamin ast.*

It translates as follows : If there be paradise on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here. I am very sorry to say that the beauty of our hill State is fast deteriorating. The lakes and brooks for which the State is famous throughout the world are fast drying up. The foreign tourists who flock in lakhs, enabling us to earn foreign exchange, are highly disappointed when they reach there. The lakes are drying up which has caused fast deterioration of the scenic beauty of the hills.

Dagaji has rightly pointed out that the Ganga and the Yamuna bring silt from the mountains and deposit it in the Bay of Bengal. The backwaters of Dal lake between the lake and the mountains are fast drying up due to

silting and this is causing fast deterioration of the scenic beauty for which the foreign tourists used to visit the State.

During Sheikh Abdullah's regime, our Government formulated a scheme, Dal project, to check silting, in the Dal lake and now crores of rupees are being spent and experts are coming from abroad to save the Dal lake. But it seems you are not adopting any preventive measures to check silting in that area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have drawn your attention to the devastation of lakes but I would also like to draw your attention to the reasons behind it. The forests in the mountains, which had been there since time immemorial were destroyed, causing soil erosion during the rainy season and thereby silt was deposited in the lake. The forest contractors and lessees have denuded and ravaged these forests and this has resulted in unprecedented soil erosion causing extensive damage to the lakes and the fertile land in the plains through silting. The fertile land in the Kashmir Valley is turning into barren land. I am saying this because Kashmir is the northern-most part and the most beautiful one in the country. The same is true of Himachal Pradesh, Darjeeling and the U.P. hills.

Sir, this has been my own experience that the Central Government are least bothered about these hill States. They are not discharging their responsibilities in this regard. Due to illegal deforestation, the flora and fauna are being destroyed and this is causing frequent floods which results in extensive damage to the country.

Sir, afforestation is not keeping pace with deforestation. Though many schemes, plans and projects have been formulated but practically nothing has been implemented. I would, therefore, sound a note of warning that this should not be treated as a problem of the State but as an issue of national concern. This is not a problem, because it is we who are facing the consequences and suffering on that account. I, therefore, request you to pay attention to these hill areas.

Cooking gas, kerosene etc. are distributed in the plains. These facilities are confined to these places while on the other hand forests

[Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

have been left at the mercy of the people to be burnt as fuel. Pine and Deodar wood worth crores of rupees is being used as fuel in these areas. It is injustice and crime. There can be no greater crime than the destruction of national wealth. I have myself witnessed it.

I would like to invite the Central Government to visit my State and see for themselves how the precious timber is being sold in tonnes at throw away prices. The forest industry could have been developed if this is checked. The State Government solely cannot be blamed, it is the Centre which is also responsible for it. The Centre acts miserly when it comes to provide kerosene or cooking gas to the hill areas. The people in the hill areas are not supplied cooking gas according to their requirements. Whenever a hue and cry is raised in the plains, in big cities and States, regarding it, the Centre swings into action & oblige them but the people of the hill areas are not obliged. You are paying a heavy price by depriving the people of these facilities. Extensive damage is being done to the forests. I would, therefore, request you to formulate a scheme which may enable you to check the people of these hill areas from using timber as fuel. For this, necessary provision will have to be made by launching a programme so that modern gadgets like kerosene stove and cooking gas are made available in hill, backward and remote areas. It is only then that timber and forest wealth could be saved, otherwise there will be no end to it and the destruction of forests will continue. It would remind you that the losses suffered during the last 10 years will have their impact during the next 100 years, and you will have to repent for that. For the last 38 year extensive damage has already been done to these forests I would, therefore, request you to provide kerosene oil, coal and cooking gas in adequate quantities to these areas.

You have to take further steps to protect the hill areas. It is all right to have the armed forces to protect the borders there but will they also protect our forests there?

Protection of forests is not possible until modern means of transport are available there as only mule-tracks exist in these areas

at present. Big contractors are able to get contracts of the forests. There is no check on the number of trees felled by them and they get scot free after marauding the forests. There is a nexus between the contractors and the employees of the forest department such as rangers, guards and other petty officials in every State and timber worth crores of rupees is smuggled out of the forests. The hill areas are facing a new problem. Earlier manual labour was used to fell the trees. 20 men used to work for four or five days to cut down a big Deodar tree, but now with the help of machines trees are cut down in less than one second. The big contractors have introduced high technology and machines in this field at such a speed that it has further worsened the situation.

I would like to submit that all these issues are interlinked. Roads will have to be constructed in the hill areas so that forests could be protected and the people will have to be provided all the facilities so that the poor are not ruined and they do not resort to deforestation.

Facilities are not being provided in the hill areas. Trains do not reach these areas and they run only in the plains. So the problem of transportation has caused widespread damage in these areas.

I would like to add that the biggest source of income of the people of J & K is the fruit industry. Apple worth crores of rupees is produced every year in our State. The apple industry is the biggest industry in the State, but due to lack of means of transport, it is not possible to transport it to Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and other big cities of the country in time. There are some commission agents in Delhi who exploit the fruit-growers. The fruit-growers are not able to get maximum benefit due to this. There is need to find a way out. The poor people in the hill areas have a long association with the fruit industry. This is their only source of income. I would, therefore, like to stress once again that the poor are being ruined because of lack of means of transport in the area.

Tourism is also a major source of earning foreign exchange. It is being encouraged in South East Asia and Arab countries.

Most of our tourist resorts are in the backward and hilly areas, but there is no good arrangement of the transport facilities and hotels and tourist centre facilities. The result is that very few tourists dare to go there and there is no further improvement in the condition of the people living in these areas.

I would like to tell you something about my own Constituency Srinagar. There is a place called Sonmarg which is also known as the 'Meadow of Gold'. It is so beautiful that even Gulmarg does not stand anywhere if the two are compared, but, unfortunately, no Master Plan has been prepared so far in this regard. The State Government has not made any provision there for hotel or overnight stay. The Government does not have adequate sources for the development of the area. Crores and billions of rupees are required for its development. I would request the Central Government to help the State Government in this regard.

Similarly, Badgam and Yasmarg are very backward areas. If these areas are developed, more tourists would be attracted to them and this would enable us to earn huge amount of foreign exchange. I would request the Central Government to develop backward areas and backward pockets. Transport facilities and roads should be provided in these areas. The State Government should also be provided assistance to set up new industries there. The unemployed persons would get employment as a result of this.

I would request you to seriously look into the problems of the hill areas. The development of these areas would further accelerate the progress of the country. It would be better if a commission or a Parliamentary Committee is set up to look into the problems of the hill areas and to see how the forests could be saved, tourism encouraged and the poverty, backwardness and disease removed from this area.

In the end, I would like to say only one thing. No doctor from the city will ever agree to go to the hill areas. He will get a recommendation from a Minister or an influential person and plead that he should not be sent in exile. Doctors, Engineers and even clerks and peons are not ready to go to these areas. Take for instance, my own State where 80 per cent of the area is hilly, but even

there most of the engineers, doctors and officers want to serve in the cities and not the backward areas. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid to transport and other related facilities in the hill areas. I wholeheartedly support the Resolution for the development of hill areas which has been moved here.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA
(Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the mover of this motion, though he is not present here at the moment, for drawing the attention of the entire country to the conditions prevailing in the hill areas and thereby to the progress of the hill areas of the country. I remember that Planning Commission had identified six areas as backward during Fifth Five Year Plan but unfortunately no mention has been made of them in the draft Seventh Five Year Plan. One of them was hill area and another was desert area. The Planning Commission has agreed that cent per cent funds would be provided by the Centre for desert development. Besides these areas, some other areas which were identified are drought-prone areas, tribal areas, coastal areas and cyclone-affected areas. In all there are six areas. The flood affected area is also included in this list. It was decided to give adequate funds during the seventh Five Year Plan for all these six areas, but it has not at all been mentioned in the draft Plan. I would like to draw the attention of the Planning Minister to pay special attention to the development of these areas.

So far as hill areas are concerned there are eight districts in Uttar Pradesh which are very backward and that is why our Hon. friend has moved this motion. On the one hand there are hill districts and on the other there are the people of these areas. Prior to Independence the hill areas in Uttar Pradesh extended upto Jaunsar Bawar. These people also enjoyed the same facilities as those of the hill areas. There are four blocks Dhuddhi, Bambni, Chopan etc., which are all hilly as are many parts of Maharashtra, Assam and Madhya Pradesh. But we are ignoring these hill areas gradually. As a result, practically there are only 10 per cent forests left in the country though for the balanced development of environment in the country about 33 per cent is necessary as has been pointed by some Hon. Members,

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

but it is only 20 per cent on paper. We have not formulated a scheme with which we may be able to protect and develop hill areas and forest areas. I am happy that the Hon. Prime Minister has recently inaugurated an HMT watch factory in a hill area. At the time of inauguration, he assured that in other hill areas of the country also factories requiring cold climate will be installed. I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister to implement this assurance and manage funds for the same. The States with hill areas should be given special assistance. He has stated four or five points very correctly. For example, to give an impetus to tourism, tourist centres should be established there. The ancient temples and beautiful valleys should be developed.

For transport purposes, a network of roads should have been laid in the hill areas but this has not been done so far. The reason is that the Conservation of Forest Act, 1980 is an impediment in the development of the hill areas. Neither you can construct roads nor can you install electric poles etc. The land is available but you cannot construct dams. What is needed is that you convene a meeting of all the Members of Parliament belonging to the hill areas and also the Chief Ministers of the concerned States and prepare a development programme. You sanction a scheme but when you go to the site, there is neither electricity nor any road at that place. No dam can be constructed for the development of the area nor can you undertake any irrigation project. I would also like to suggest that at the time of felling trees in the forest, this rule should be followed strictly that for each felled tree, two saplings must be planted. The land should be transferred only when the saplings have grown for two or three years. Otherwise it is possible that the saplings may wither away. The Hon. Minister should pay serious attention to this aspect.

Several Hon. Members said that the climate of the country was changing. In all, there are six seasons—autumn, spring, summer etc.—but change is coming into them also. That is why time for sowing the crops is also being changed. Meteorological Department is also giving wrong information. They are not giving correct ecological information

also. Consequently, people are not being fully warned about the floods, drought and other natural calamities. This is all due to the disturbances in the ecological balance. Therefore, I demand that for integrated development, the forests should not be disturbed and even if this is done, more trees should be planted. Nowadays we are spending more on social forestry, but forest department staff is earning a lot from that. On papers you may show whatever you like, but if you make a survey you will see that the funds provided for development are not properly utilised. These people are swallowing the public money. I would like to request to make surveys of one or two forest divisions in each State and then see whether the trees have been planted in the number they should have been and whether the trees are in proportion to the money provided by you. I can say it with challenge that you will not find a single tree there. Therefore, I would like to say that first save the natural surroundings. Erect fencing around the forests. That is more useful than fresh afforestation. There will be many difficulties in fresh afforestation because even after 39 years of independence, settlement of the land has not been finalised. Consequently, demarcation of forest and agricultural land has not been possible. That is why right of concession for the tribals has not been decided so far.

I want to tell you about my area Mirzapur. There is forest area in Mirzapur. In spite of our best efforts, the settlement of land is not taking place. The result is that thousands of cases are being instituted against the tribals. I want that settlement should take place and they should get right of concession. But they are not getting that. We had to go to the Supreme Court to get Stay Order, only then we had some relief. But I want to know as to how long this situation will continue? Though you have given priority to this point in the 20-point programme, no State Government is implementing it. The Centre will have to take in its own hand the programmes which are of national importance. Merely issuing directions will not do. No State Government listens to you. They do the work in their own way. No one is ready to conduct a survey of the eight districts of the hill areas. It can be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and also in the States known as "Seven sister" states. In small States also the survey

can be conducted. It can be conducted in the hill areas of Assam, Eastern and Western coastal areas and in Madhya Pradesh. The Hon. Member of Andhra Pradesh are sitting here. There is one Agency area there and that too has not been surveyed so far. If you want to save the country, maintain the ecological balance and create a good environment, you shall have to fix certain priorities and one of them is that you will have to develop all the land. Not only that, for the development of the hill areas you will have to provide employment there. You should arrange for providing loan facility in those areas. You should give money for planting the saplings suitable for that area. In forest areas people can go in for animal husbandry. Goats and buffaloes can be reared there easily. If you develop the hill areas according to the climate prevailing there, these areas will definitely develop. Above all, you cannot develop the hill areas in the Seventh Five Year plan if you depend only on the States. My submission is that a survey of all the hill areas of the country should be conducted once again.

I would like to make one more submission. The candidates belonging to the hill areas of Mirzapur should get the 2 per cent reservation provided by the Uttar Pradesh Government to the hill areas. Some people demanded this reservation but they were told that they did not belong to the hill area. They went to the High Court and the High Court decided in favour of the candidates. After that they started taking those people in service, I would like to submit this also that developmental programmes are not being implemented in the hill areas and these areas have been kept untouched. Not taking your much time, I demand that the Government should accept this resolution because it is very important one. The Government should give assurance on this. It appears that there is consensus in this House on this matter. I may submit that similar proposals for the desert areas and drought-prone areas will also come before the House and on all those six types of areas which have been identified by the Planning Commission itself. In all these particular areas tribals reside, the poor reside and if you conduct a survey of these areas you will find that the people who are below the poverty line mostly live in these six types of areas. Schemes under the Seventh Five Year Plan should be formulated

in such a way that the people living in the desert areas, coastal areas, floodprone areas and such other areas may make progress. Now when we are entering the 21st century, these people should also come upto other's level and all may progress simultaneously.

I am thankful for the time given to me to speak on the subject.

SHRI JHUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : I welcome the resolution of Shri Harish Rawat regarding hill area development and would like to express my views on this subject.

I have come from an area which is considered as desert area. It is a fact that 3/4th of Rajasthan is desert but 1/4th of the State comprises forest, rivers and wild life.

16.00 hrs.

[**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN**
in the Chair]

Before merger of the former princely states, there used to be forests in 30 per cent of this part of the area. But when we talk about Rajasthan people think of it being mostly a desert area. The plans or schemes for the State are also formulated only for the desert areas, but not much significance is attached to the hill areas of the State. In Bharatpur, Kota, Alwar, Jhalawar areas there used to be dense forests and there are good forests even now. There is well developed forestry there but unfortunately full attention is not being paid to the State where there is maximum need to protect the forests. During the time of princely states, efforts were made to protect the forests. Now the Central Government as well as Government of Rajasthan should make efforts to protect the forests in Rajasthan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that along with special attention being paid towards desert areas of Rajasthan, development of its hill-areas should also be taken care of. The Hon. Members were just now talking of the Himalayas, but the Aravali mountain is the oldest which originates from Rajasthan. It is older than the Himalayas. Many battles

[Shri Jhujhar Singh]

were fought there. The famous battle of Haldi Ghati was fought there. That area is respected very much as people are emotionally attached to it. But these hill areas have not been protected these days.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister that in the 'Dag' area of Jhalawar, there used to be sandal trees, sal trees and all other types of trees, but presently these are available in very less number. This is so, because no efforts have been made to project this area. For your information I would like to add that a project has been undertaken under an officer of the rank of Chief Conservation Officer in the Chambal catchment area. Under his supervision, the forest area is being protected. Four or five Assistant Conservation Officers, ten Engineers and 22 Forest Rangers are working under him. The entire staff comprises about 450 persons. Government have posted this staff to protect the Chambal Catchment area. About 3 years back, when the Hon. Prime Minister was the General Secretary of the Congress Party, he had visited Kota. We had submitted to him a statement duly supported by photos that the Chambal forest area is being destroyed by the persons posted there to protect it. Grazers have been brought there from other parts of Rajasthan, whereas local adivasis should have been permitted to take their cattle there for grazing. But the people from other parts have been invited in the Chambal Project area and now cattle colonies have come up there. The people from other parts have been brought and given permission to graze their cattle there. Instead of grazing, they denuded the entire forest area. Trees are not visible anywhere in that area. I request the Hon. Minister to visit that area sometime and see for himself as to how the jungles have been destroyed by the persons who should have protected them.

I hold the Forest Department responsible for this who have not protected the area. It did not protect the forests in any way. The Department itself invited and is still inviting people from other areas. This department is making no efforts at all to protect the forests.

Sir, in this connection I would also like to submit before you that out of total erosion due to water in Rajasthan, 60 per cent

erosion has taken place in Kota Division only. These statistics have been prepared by the Central Government—

[English]

—that 60 per cent of the water erosion in Rajasthan is confined to Kota Division only.

[Translation]

This erosion is taking place and it is further increasing due to non-protection of forests properly. Rate of erosion has increased considerably. When I was a Minister in Rajasthan 5 or 10 years back, I had requested the Planning Department to conduct a survey of our areas to ascertain the increase in the rate of erosion. Surface erosion has increased to such an extent that where previously per bigha crop yield was 5 maunds, now it has gone down to about 2 maunds. These statistics are available in the records of the Rajasthan Government. Leave aside ravine erosion, surface erosion has increased so much that fertility of soil has gone down considerably due to which people are facing many difficulties. I would, therefore, like to submit that the question of erosion is linked with the felling of trees and erosion is taking place on a large scale. In this connection an Hon. Member had given a suggestion that afforestation programme prepared intelligently may be introduced in eroded areas in order to remedy the situation.

Sir, today more attention is being paid to "mono culture" in the forests. The same type of saplings are being planted. Only Julia Flora or Eucalyptus saplings are being planted. But previously, the jungles used to have variety of trees. Efforts should be made to rehabilitate them and this "mono culture" should be stopped. It is causing great damage. Through you, Sir, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that not much effort is required to protect the forests. You are incurring huge expenditure under the Plantation Programme. It requires plantation of each and every sapling, but you are required to observe only administrative strictness in natural forests. Roots are already available there. Nature helps in this regard. Only cooperation of the Department is needed to grow them again. If you can protect the

forests by putting fence or enclosures around them, it can prove to be much beneficial. Crores of rupees have been spent at putting fencing and enclosures around lakhs of bighas of land, but there was lack of spirit of protecting them. These trees flourished for a period of 2 to 4 years, but were got destroyed by the Forest Department itself. My submission is that it needs strict watch, dedication and the will to preserve forests. For that, plantation of new saplings is not required. Nature itself is helping in this regard. Only keen interest is required to protect them. I have myself visited the areas in Rajasthan and found that where dedicated efforts have been made to preserve forests, trees have come up within a very short period. The officials of Forest Department never visited my village—a small Panchayat, where a very good forest has been developed, because efforts have been made to preserve it. T. V. Department has produced a film about that forest and people have appreciated it. When people have a will to protect the forest, forest can be protected there without spending much money and with less labour. It can be preserved by the Forests Department with half of the money being spent at present on plantation of saplings. But no attention is being paid towards it at present. So, attention need to be paid towards this aspect.

Secondly, I would like to submit that wild-life is also linked with forests and hills. In Kota and other parts of Rajasthan there are very fine wild-life sanctuaries. Sanctuary at Sawai Madhopur can be considered as the best sanctuary in India. Dara Game Sanctuary in Kota area had the maximum number of wild animals at the time of merger of princely states. But now regular poaching is being resorted to there. Sale and purchase of wild animals is being undertaken there. Even today that sanctuary exists on paper. But no efforts are being made to protect it. Forest Department does not pay any heed towards it. In addition, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards one thing more. Forest Department and wild life Departments have been bifurcated, but Wild Life Department does not have adequate staff to protect the wild life and you had bifurcated the Forest Department and the Wild Life Department in order to provide more protection to the wild life. But this experiment has not proved to be practical

one. This experiment has caused much harm. I would like to submit that Forest Department and Wild Life Department may be merged. If one person tries to protect them, other does not cooperate. You have created dual authority. Nobody is being benefited thereby. To what extent do you think it proper that the two departments of Forest should operate separately. The Minister incharge of forests is sitting here. I would like to tell him further that double records—Revenue Record and Forest Record—are maintained in Rajasthan. A particular piece of land is recorded at both the places. Being recorded in the Revenue records the land was allotted to a landless persons or an adivasi or a Scheduled Caste person by the S. D. O. or some other Government officer 20 or 25 years back and that land is being cultivated by him since then. But the same land is also recorded under forest records. Now-a-days you have framed a rule under which forest land cannot be converted to any other types of land in any circumstances. Because of this, these people are being evicted from that land. I would like to request that they may not be evicted. This problem does not pertain to big farmers but to small adivasi farmers. In this connection, I have written to you as well as to the Rajasthan Government. I request that the cases which have arisen as a result of lapse on the part of Government may be solved keeping in view the practical aspect. If the farmers are evicted from there, you will also experience difficulty in getting their cooperation. The enclosures and fences are being put in an unpractical way in villages. People experience great difficulties while going out from their villages. Any development scheme formulated by you should cause minimum difficulties to the people living in villages so that you may get more cooperation in preserving the forests. I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I congratulate Hon. Member, Shri Harish Rawat for bringing forward this Resolution with regard to the development of the hilly areas in the country.

Sir, I feel that for the last so many years we have not given enough attention for the development of

[Prof. P. J. Kurien]

hilly areas in the country. If we calculate the total amount which we have spent on development and find out what percentage of it has gone to the hilly areas, we will find that a high proportion of the amount has been spent in the plains and urban areas and very little has gone for the development of the hilly areas of the country. We have got no correct perspective of the problems faced by the people in the hilly areas. The problems of the hills are something which we cannot conceive of sitting here in Delhi. For having a correct perspective and understanding of the problem, we should actually tour these areas and study the problems of the people living in the hilly regions. Their problems are entirely different from the problems which we are facing. The Developmental Schemes which are suitable for the development of plains are not suitable for the development of hilly areas. But unfortunately we have not given sufficient attention to the development of these areas. Sir, the beauty of nature is in the hills. Nature sleeps in the hill and if we want to enjoy, we should tour these areas.

We are all happy that our Prime Minister has started visiting these areas. I am very happy to say that my constituency is in hill slopes and hill ranges and our Prime Minister visited this constituency also. In these hills, as we know, mostly the tribals, the Harijans and such other backward people live and therefore their problems are very peculiar. I will cite some examples. Take the question of transport, roads and communications facilities. We plan for development of roads and allot funds, but we do not conceive that for construction of roads in hill areas the amount required is some times three or four times more than that required for plain areas. Sir, in my district which is a hill area, with the funds allotted for IRDP or NREP are for construction of roads, only a few kilometres of road can be constructed. With the same amount in plain areas we can construct a road which is three or four times longer than that constructed in the hill area. Therefore, the total development of the hill area will be much less than in other areas. Therefore, my suggestion is the Hon. Planning Minister is here—when you allot funds for the hill areas, you should have a special calculation and you should

give more funds according to the special requirements of the hill areas with regard to construction of roads especially under NREP, IRDP and other schemes.

When we come to the question of industrial development, we find that all the major industries, practically due to infrastructural problems are set up in plains and that too concentrated in urban areas. We talk much about villages and the development of rural India. India lives in the villages, Gandhiji said. Eighty per cent of our people are in the villages. But where are our industries? Whenever we plan an industry we think only of urban areas and when somebody says that this industry should be diversified and they should go to the rural areas, then come so many problems—where is electricity, where are roads and where is water etc.? That is the problem of infrastructural facilities will be raised. We never bother about creating infrastructural development in these villages. Therefore, this is a kind of vicious circle. When we ask for a new industry, when the expert team goes and studies, will say that in such and such a place (that is, a rural area) there is not sufficient power, no sufficient transportation facilities, no water, and this and that. And the poor villagers will not be able to treat these experts also. Therefore, the report will be against setting up a factory in a rural area. But when they go to the city, the report will be otherwise. Still, we do not bother to give the infrastructural facilities in villages. My suggestion is that planning should be such that whatever infrastructural facilities are available in urban areas should also be available in villages. We should reorient our plan. We should not set up the thermal plants and other plants in cities only.

In my constituency there are certain hydroelectric projects. Electricity is generated in certain villages of my constituency from hydro electric projects spending crores of rupees. You may not believe when I say this. The seat of electricity where it is generated, in that village, there is no power supply. After the last elections, I toured my constituency and saw those hill areas. Electricity is generated from Idukki but that village is not electrified. Electricity generated from Idukki is transmitted everywhere to the cities and urban areas and supplied to these

places. Nobody is bothered to give electricity to that village. What type of planning is it? I wrote to the concerned Minister and the rural electrification people. But the result is nothing. I am sure that there is something wrong in our planning. I went to that village and said to those people : "You are all very good people; otherwise you would have started agitation". We have no correct perspective for the development of hill areas. Our planning should be re-oriented. We have no perspective for the development of hill areas. Therefore, my suggestion is that the thrust should be in providing infrastructural facilities in rural areas and hill areas just as you are providing in urban areas. Then only, there will be equal development of villages.

I am happy to mention here that compared to many other States, the State of Kerala is ahead in many respects. If you travel through the State of Kerala, you will find that the infrastructural facilities are extended to villages also. In most of the villages, infrastructural facilities and electricity are there. But Kerala also, as I have said, has not achieved what it should have achieved. The other States, I am sorry to say, are far behind in these respects.

Again coming to the problems hill areas specially I have already said that the problems are entirely different. You cannot have a major industry, big industry in a hill area due to transportation problem. But those industries which can be set up in hill areas should be set up. Will the Hon. Minister conduct a survey for this? The industries which can be set up in hill areas are not set up there. I do not want to criticise anybody. In Kerala, there is the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation. They have a number of units set up and most of them are in urban areas. Electronics industry can be set up in hill areas and the hill climate is better for the electronics industry. But there is no such industry. Electronics is one such industry which can be set up in the hill area. Therefore, the Central Government should give directives to the State Governments that those industries which can be set up in hill areas should be set up only in hill areas. Coming to the medium scale and large scale industries which require huge machinery, investments and other things, hill areas have their own drawbacks and disadvantages. But

when you come to electronics industry, watch industry and such other small scale industries, hill areas can be considered. So, I would request the Hon. Planning Minister to specially note that hereafter such industries should be set up only in hill areas.

Again, look at the beauty of nature in the hills. I am reminded of our Panditji. When he was in jail, Panditji himself has written, how he was getting inspiration from the Himalayas. I am sure you must have read it. The Himalayas were a source of great inspiration to Panditji. Actually every hill will be a source of inspiration to you, to me, to all of us, if we start observing it. Nature will be a source of inspiration if we start observing the nature. But the point is, we have no time for that. Therefore, my point is that emphasis should be given on development of tourism in the hilly areas. Here I should point out, as I did in the morning during the Question Hour, that we always go in for encouraging foreign tourism. That is not enough. We should encourage domestic tourism also; our people should visit the hilly areas and should enjoy the nature in the hills. There should be special development schemes for hilly areas for development of tourism.

In my constituency, there are two important places. One is Munnar which is very famous. It is a very beautiful place, but unfortunately that is not in the tourist map of our country. I would request the Hon. Minister to include Munnar in the tourist map of our country.

About Thekkadi, as was mentioned in the morning, there is already a wild life sanctuary there. There is also a lake; there are conveniences for boating. But the common man cannot go there. The hotel charges are very high. Government should provide hotels for the common man. Thekkadi being a very famous wild life sanctuary, foreign tourists are coming there. The Central Government should include Thekkadi in its development plan in order to attract more foreign tourists.

Coming to forests, most of the hilly areas are covered by forests and mostly tribals and Harijans are living there. You know what are their problems. So many

[Prof. P. J. Kurien]

tribals were coming and telling me that they live there, the Government have given them special loans for housing but they cannot cut a tree for their own house, the tree which they themselves have planted. I went to a colony. They showed me a jack tree. They said that they had planted it, was not a forest tree but because the officers were implementing the law in letter and not in spirit, they could not cut it. At the same time I have seen so many hectares of land which are under cultivation for the last 25 or more years and which are reckoned as forests under the law. According to Government officers, they are all forests. I have personally seen thousands of hectares of land which are cultivated; they do not contain any tree at all, but they are reckoned as forests. There is no demarcation between actual forest and cultivable lands. Protection of forests is only in the books. If you want protection of forests genuinely, you have to find out which are the actual forests and demarcate them; and nobody should be allowed to enter the actual forest and cut the trees. The land which has already been cultivated for 25 or 30 years should not be marked as forests. In those so called forests people are living. Therefore, the important thing is that there should be a correct demarcation between the actual forest and the land which is being cultivated. Once such a demarcation is made, the residents should be given title of the land they cultivate and forests should be protected. Nobody should be allowed to cut the trees from forests. This is very important if you want to enforce the Forest Preservation Act in letter and spirit.

One more point I would like to make with regard to development of hilly areas. It is not only forest cutting that is disturbing the ecology. Two or three years back, I had the occasion to go to Mussoorie. While moving from Dehra Dun to Mussoorie. I found that a lot of mining was taking place in those areas and those minings, I am sure, are very much detrimental to the nature and for keeping up the ecological balance.

Sir, on soil conservation we spend a lot of money. But we have not achieved

anything. We should allot more funds on soil conservation because lack of proper soil conservation is another reason for what is called the land slides.

There was land slide in my constituency. One of the reasons for that was lack of soil conservation. So, more funds should be allotted for soil conservation.

Sir, I hope these suggestions will be noted by the Minister and not only that, I hope that he will act on these suggestions also. I have to make more suggestions but the respected Chair is not allowing. Therefore, I am cutting short. However, I hope the Minister will take note of these suggestions, specially about my constituency that is Munnar to bring in the tourist map. I hope he will do that.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE

(Akola) : Mr. Chairman Sir, while speaking on the resolution which has been moved by Shri Harish Rawat, there were some very interesting points raised. In fact after reading the resolution and after listening to the speeches made on the resolution, one gets a feeling that the resolution mainly concerns the forests.

Here, I would like to point out one thing that the resolution is about the hilly areas and when we talk of hilly areas, mainly we think about Himalayas and we have a natural tendency to forget about other hilly areas. There are hilly areas in the country which are not forest areas, but there are hills and mountains which are without forest. In this connection, I would like to mention some ranges like the ranges of Sahyadri on the western ghat. Many ranges in Satpura and ranges of Ajanta where you may not find forest, but there are hills. Ajanta and Satpura are called mountain in geography also. There is hardly any forest. We have got the world famous Ajanta caves and we know about that.

It has been marked that while thinking about the development of hilly areas only those areas which are covered with forests have been given attention and other hilly

areas and mountains which are having less forests or no forest is being neglected.

records and tell you that it is a forest area. This will be a very important thing.

While speaking on this resolution, I would like to draw your attention that while chalking out a plan for hilly areas, all those mountains where there is no forest existing should also be taken into consideration because basically all other difficulties remain the same... All other problems remain the same and they should not be neglected. Here again, as the previous Hon. speaker has mentioned, one thing has to be made very clear. This House and all of us in this country are very much concerned about ecology, about environment and about having more and more area under forests. But the tendency on the part of the bureaucracy seems to be a bit different. I would like to mention here one thing. I do not know when the last survey of the forests was made. I am sure it must have been made before independence. I do not know whether after independence there was any survey of our actual forest area. Because, in my own State, I know that at least 30 irrigation projects are not being allowed on the ground that the forest area is going to be submerged but when we actually go there to the site, only bushes are there. In the revenue language, it may be called 'E' class land and it cannot be termed as a forest area. But only because a resurvey was not done and the State Government—this is a State subject—do not take the trouble of resurveying the area, they are still termed as forest area. During the last 50 years from many areas forest have disappeared because of the changes in environment and the changing pattern of rains and instead of trees, there are only bushes which are described as 'E' class land. But on the record it is shown as forest and instead of going into the field, they just refer to the revenue records and inform the Central Government that there is a forest and because a forest is going to be submerged, the irrigation project should not be allowed. So there is neither development of forests nor irrigation development and the areas remains neglected. I think it is high time that the Planning Commission and the Central Government take up these things with the State Government and ask them to resurvey the whole area so that without taking the trouble of going to the field and find out they may not just see the revenue

All other points have been mentioned. I would like to draw the attention to some other factors also. While we are very keen in maintaining and increasing the area under forest, there are some difficulties I have seen. If a power transmission line has to be taken through the forest or if some poles have to be put in the forest areas to take electricity, permission is not given on the ground that it is going through the forest area and transmission line cannot be taken. Technically they prefer the shortest possible distance for taking the lines and many times that shortcut happens to go through the forests....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please try to conclude now,

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VIRALE : I think I have not taken even half the time of my previous speakers. You should be equally kind to me.

So I would like that the Government should look into this matter. For these mere technical reasons many development projects cannot be put through and the area gets neglected. Actually they should, if possible, photograph all the areas whether they are forest areas or not and it should not be an indirect encouragement of the lethargy of the officers of State Governments who want to do an easy job. Without going to the field they report back, even if some powerline or electricity line is to be taken, that it is a forest and that 'we should not allow ecology to be affected.' You know nowadays ecology and pollution have become very sensitive subjects and that sensitiveness is used for not taking trouble. I will give another example. The Central Government has given instructions to the State Governments that we should be very careful about pollution with the result that pollution boards have been established in different States. These pollution boards have directed that any industry which uses more than 5 horse power should get the clearance from the pollution control board. Now, a 5 horse power utilisation unit can be a saw mill, flour mill or a lathe and these poor fellow have to go to the State level. Sir, to get the clearance from the pollution

[Shri Madhusudhan Virale]

control board does not take less than six to eight months and in the meanwhile the poor fellows who have taken the loans and everything go on paying interest.

Now, Sir, supposing there is a Saw mill. It does not cause any pollution. So, I suggested to them that making the rule that every unit which has more than 5 horse power must come to the State level to get the permission will only create more complications and harass the small people who want to enter in industry.

Secondly, Sir, while considering hill areas, the hills with forests only should not be considered as hill area but mountains like Sat-puras where there may not be forests on the top should also be considered as hill area and sufficient care for their development should be given. There was a special plan for communication in the hill areas of Maharashtra but due to shortage of funds the State Government had to leave quite a few schemes incomplete. In that direction also some attention should be paid.

Further, in these hill areas there are some areas where by lifting the water cultivation is possible. In these hill areas special permission for lifting the water and cultivating the small stretches should be given. Another problem in hill areas is that—just as Konkan area—although we get all the rain at the mountains yet the population staying at the top of the hill areas face drinking water problem. They give drinking water to others but they do not themselves get drinking water. Therefore, drinking water facilities should be made available to them.

Sir, for encouraging development of hill areas the Maharashtra Government has come out with a scheme that if there is a registered institution it will be given 30 acres of land at a nominal lease for twenty years on the condition that they should develop fruit and other trees and create forest on that. I am sure if this pattern is followed it will be much helpful in these areas.

Lastly, there is much scope for developing small irrigation schemes, soil conservation

schemes, development of animal husbandry and bringing forth not only electronics industry but also other industries for which raw-material can be available from forest itself can be planned and I sincerely hope that all these suggestions will be considered by the Government.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Chariman, Sir, backwardness of the hill areas need not specifically be emphasised here because everyone of us is aware that for centuries these areas as also the people living in these areas have been neglected continuously. First, I must appreciate Mr. Rawat in bringing forward this Resolution before this august House for discussion. I wish the Hon. Minister should not think that the investment that is to be made by the Government of India for various developmental schemes in these areas as an infructuous expenditure. In fact, a huge treasure of economic wealth is untapped in these areas all these years. If only the decisions are not taken on political grounds to locate power and irrigation projects, these areas are most suitable because these projects can be executed and maintained at a very cheap cost. Power can also be generated and supplied for industrial purposes at a very nominal cost. If these projects are located in areas like Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas where natural and big water falls are there, not only power generation can be done at a low cost but at the same time the hill areas can also be developed. The tribal people who are far away from the civilised people, all these generations, may also be able to develop their social and mental faculties and they can be brought into the main stream of nation building.

Some of the factors which can also be considered for the development of these areas are political, economical, social and educational. Sir, backwardness of these areas can be removed in several ways, simultaneously curing many of the ailments. For example, Naxalism is spreading in a big way in these areas. Terrorists, extremists and dacoits are finding hide-outs in these areas. This is causing a great alarm. The tribals are exploited by these people. There is immense disparity between the tribals living in these areas and the civilised people who are exploiting them. This is causing a great discontent

among the youth in the tribal community and this leads to resorting to Naxalim by bloodshed and by other means so they can bring down the disparities, instead of bringing down the disparities in a peaceful manner. All these forces should be eliminated. Instead of spending enormous amounts in resisting these Naxalites, Terrorists and extremists, if the same amount is spent for the development of these hill areas, both these problems can be solved.

Sir, the Central Government need not think that they are investing a huge amount exclusively for the hill areas by way of executing various projects because these projects are going to give a good dividend in the future. Apart from this, Forests are already under the control of the Central Government and so also the hill areas can also be brought under the control of the Central Government for which investment can be made by the Union Government.

Sir, there are other ways of developing the hill areas. Development of tourism in these areas is one way of developing these regions. So also plantations can be encouraged in these areas because people living in these areas are hard working people. Even if these lands are given to the local people who are poor and also marginal farmers who come from outside the areas, by encouraging these people, forest trees can be converted into fruit bearing trees and the lands are converted into cultivable lands. In this way, the ecology and environment of the region are preserved.

Sir, animal husbandry is another means of developing these areas in a big way, without involving much expenditure. Model schools, agricultural universities and other agricultural institution which require a loving and peaceful atmosphere can be located in these areas. This would mean less expenditure and more growth at the same time.

In case the Government were to feel constraint of resources for development of these areas, I would suggest that the Planning Minister and the Finance Minister, who has been making a lot of efforts to trace out black money, should sit together and consider whether a scheme can be worked out for allowing black money holders to invest their

money for the development of these hill areas without taking any subsidy or assistance from the Government side. By this you can dig out the black money and also utilise the same for the welfare and development of the hill areas and the hilly people. Two things can be achieved at a time.

I wish that the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and certain parts of Bihar should also be included in this scheme; they should not be left out simply because some tribal sub-plan is in existence there. The allocations are very poor in the sub-plan and they are meant for tribals who are living in the plain areas. These States must also be included in this plan.

There is an urgent need for a will on the part of the Government and the Ministers concerned for development of these areas which have been neglected for generations. These areas must be developed on priority basis. The Government should not consider it a burden or unnecessary expenditure; it is the duty of the Government to attend to it urgently.

Unless disparities are removed and these areas are improved and developed, there is a likelihood of law and order problems causing a danger to the democracy and the people, as some of the aggressive youths believe that disparities can be reduced only by resorting to harsh and other methods.

[Translation]

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole heartedly welcome the resolution moved in the House for the development of hill areas. Any number of concessions are inadequate for implementing the proposals meant for the welfare of human beings particularly for the people living in hill areas and the backward people.

Sir, people living in hill areas have not been benefited by the I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P. and other welfare programmes undertaken by Government to that extent to which the people living in plains have been benefited. They have got negligible benefit. The reason is that the geographical conditions of plains and hill areas are quite different and they

[Shri R. S. Khirhar]

have their own problems. I understand that the officers responsible for implementing development programmes there do not get proper residential facilities in hill areas as compared to what others get in plains. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that special coaching may be given to officers posted in hill areas to implement development programmes there so that they may be able to withstand hazards in the hills. Only then they will be able to ensure proper implementation of development programmes. In this connection I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the hill areas of Chhota Nagpur, Palamau and Santhal. Even today the problem of drinking water, which is the prime need of life, is the same which was in the past. That is why feelings of regionalism is developing there. In Bihar a demand for a separate state was made. Such a feeling of regionalism has developed there. Even today thousands of religious conversions are taking place there. What is the mystery behind it? The biggest reason is the economic and educational backwardness. The Government should pay special attention towards this. In Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana, Development Authority is already grant is given by the Central Government to the Development Authority being constituted there by the State Government for different programmes being run by them. These should, therefore, be monitored. While talking to the Hon. Member Shri Simon Tigga, I came to know that in one Development Authority, Vice Chairman has not been appointed so far. It is, therefore, not functioning. If we go on moving such resolutions, keep discussing them and go on enacting laws but if no follow-up action is taken, then we shall not be able to make any development at all.

I want that special attention should be paid to education also. Indian culture should be encouraged there in our education system. There should be amity and feeling of fraternity amongst the people. Why it is lacking? It is so because they lack in modern education. The modern education system has not reached there. There are no colleges in those places. If there is difficulty in setting up big industries, then small cottage industries should be set up. In many places, small cottage industries are run with bank grants. If these

are run in that atmosphere, then they will get a chance to develop. Therefore, this aspect should be paid attention to. The transport, drinking water and educational facilities should be made available in Chhota Nagpur. Palamau and Santhal Pargana areas. The shortcomings in the functioning of the Development Authority set up there should be removed and its functioning monitored. With these words I welcome the resolution.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, I rise to support wholeheartedly the Resolution moved by my Hon. friend Shri Harish Rawat for the development of hilly areas. Looking at the map of our country, one can very well understand that the most neglected parts of our country are the hilly areas. In order to develop these areas, which are socially and economically backward, effective steps must be taken by the Government immediately. In this respect, I would like to suggest the following for the immediate consideration of the Government.

Transportation facilities and a network of roads are the most urgent need for the development of the hilly areas. The Government should make provision for starting Hill Highways all over the country immediately.

Construction works in the hilly areas are lagging behind and more and more construction works must be taken up to develop these areas.

The hilly areas of our country are mostly inhabited by the people belonging to the Hill Tribes and the conditions of the people are miserable. Due to lack of education, these poor people are still in the dark. More and more schools for the children of the hill people are to be started. Out of sheer poverty, the children of the poor Adivasis and other hill tribes never find their way to school. Government must provide food, clothing and other facilities for these children.

17.00 hrs.

In order to reduce the regional imbalances and inter-district disparities, a clear provision must be made for starting new industries. Most of the hilly districts are backward and

those who come forward to start industries how are to be encouraged by giving incentives. There is ample scope for starting agro-based industries in hilly areas. So also, industries like precision instruments, electronics and watch manufacturing etc. are to be located at hilly areas. Wood industry and horticulture are also to be promoted. The Government must make it a point to start industries in the economically and socially backward districts which are located in the hilly districts of our country.

The economic of tribal India largely depends on land, animal and forest resources. All the farmers who are living in the hills are very poor and their land holding is also very small.

It is painful to note that still there are instances where the land of the *adivasis* are being alienated by landlords all over the country. Stringent actions must be taken against those who take away the land and property of the poor *adivasis*.

Tribal India cannot be taken for granted any longer. It has to be taken with urgency and understanding.

Before, I wind up, I would like to draw your attention to the State of Kerala. Sir, out of the 14 districts of Kerala, the major portion of more than 5 districts are situated in hilly areas. Without proper roads and transportation facilities, the normal life has become impossible in these areas. It is the long cherished desire of the people of Kerala to have a Hilly Highway that starts from the district of Kasaragod touching all the hill districts and reaching the Capital City of our State, Trivandrum. I recall the provision made under the Fifth Five Year Plan for development of western Ghats. But the allocation is miserably low and must necessarily be increased. The Central Government should come forward and give financial assistance for the Hill Highway Scheme that may be submitted by the Government of Kerala. The steams, rivers, peaks and hills of Kerala have always been a fascination for the tourists coming from different parts of the world. So it is my humble request, that the Central Government should make clear provisions for tapping tourist potential of the hilly areas in Kerala.

Lastly, I urge upon the Government to make special provisions for the development of the hilly districts of Wynad, Idukky, Kottayam and Pathanam Thitta.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Harish Rawat, by bringing the resolution regarding development of hill areas has given us an opportunity to have a discussion about the development of hill areas. So far as hill areas are concerned, this has been said from time immemorial that the Himachal is the forehead of India and Kashmir presents astounding scenic beauty of India. Similarly, the other places have been eulogised. I would like to mention certain names—Kulu, Manali, Nainital, Shimla, Mussorie, Dehradun, Chamoli, Badrinath, Kedarnath and Darjeeling. Wherever these hill areas have been developed and beautified with a view to promote tourism, they have become places worth-seeing.

17.03 hrs.

[**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE** *in the chair*]

Many of our places like Badrinath and Kedarnath are places of religious faith where lakhs of pilgrims go every year to pay their respect. In the other hill areas, people come from different areas and enjoy scenic beauty.

Regarding their development, I would like to state that I had the opportunity to visit many places and I found that even today there are places which, if properly developed by the Tourism Department, will attract tourists not only from India but from the whole world and after enjoying the beauty of these hill areas, they will become more and more interested in these areas. The number of tourist centres will increase further. If the Tourism Department develops good places, constructs hotels, lakes and takes other steps for beautification, our country will earn more foreign exchange and the Central Government will also earn lot of money from the tourist resorts.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend an orientation programme in Gangtok in Sikkim. We remained there for 3 or 4 days

[Shri Manvendra Singh]

and talked to the people. Their feeling was that they were very backward. I went to several other hill areas. There also people told that their economic condition was deteriorating day by day. The problem of unemployment is also emerging there. I would request the Hon. Minister that the Government should do the maximum for their development so that unemployment among them is removed.

As has been stated in the resolution, cultivation should be encouraged there so that the economic condition of the people of those areas is improved. The Government should provide subsidies, seeds, fertilisers, loans and other facilities so that more progress is made on the agricultural front.

In addition, industries should also be promoted there. In hill stations I have visited the place of tourist interest. I found them very beautiful, but industries are negligible there. The question arises as to why industries have not been set up there? The roads are in very bad shape. I would request the Hon. Minister that for the development of those areas industries like electronic should be promoted there.

Many types of wood is available there. Pine, cedar and other types of better quality wood is available there. Small cottage industries based on these woods should be set up there.

In addition to these, it is also understood that different minerals are available there, but so far no survey has been conducted in this regard. Efforts should be made by the Government on priority basis to explore mineral deposits in those areas.

So far as horticulture is concerned, as the Hon. Member has stated, the Government earn revenue worth crores of rupees from sale of apples and other fruits produced there. We should give encouragement for plantation of good quality orchards so that the farmers get fillip and employment.

Regarding forests, which is their main problem, wherever we went, we found that

deforestation is going on constantly. As the Hon. Member from Jammu and Kashmir has said, costly wood which is of commercial value is being burnt as fuel. I would request the Hon. Minister that maximum measures should be taken to ensure that forest wealth does not dwindle. Maximum effort should be taken to ensure that forest wealth does not dwindle. Maximum effort should be made to protect the forest wealth. The work on new plantations should be speeded up.

So far as change in seasons is concerned this too depends on the forests. We have seen at many places that there has been less inflow of water in the major canals which result in loss to the crops in the plains. Because of silting, flow of water in the river is getting lesser which results in frequent floods in the plains and loss of billions of rupees. If that money is properly invested in the development of the hill areas and afforestation, the hill areas can be developed very much.

As a result of deforestation the number of wild animals is also going down. On one hand zoos are being set up in big cities and on the other hand, due to felling of trees in the forests, these animals and birds are becoming extinct day by day. I would request you to make such arrangements that the forest wealth is not destroyed.

We have seen that in hill areas the health services have also not been made available properly. Consequently, the people there suffer from many diseases. Education is also not made available properly in hill areas. When I went to Gangtok, I came to know that there is no arrangement for graduation studies there. It is necessary to open schools and colleges there to impart education.

Postal services are also not properly available in hill areas. The 'dak' remains undelivered for full month, because there is lack of roads. The electricity and drinking water supply is also not satisfactory. In the last session also, this matter was raised that there is drought in the hill areas and drinking water is not available there. Arrangement should be made for this also.

The medicinal plants and herbs are available in abundance in hill areas. Therefore, I request to set up industries connected with medicines to manufacture drugs from these medicinal plants and herbs.

With these words I express my gratitude to you and thank my colleague Shri Rawat for giving us a chance to have a discussion on the subject.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV
(Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the resolution presented by Shri Rawat. I also congratulate the Hon. Minister. I have heard with attention the Hon. Member who have participated in the discussion. I would like to submit that the discussion that is taking place in this House on the development of the hill areas has been brought here for the first time since I joined this House. A resolution relating to the development of hill areas has never been brought here. There is a saying in our village that every dog has his day. So at last we are discussing today in this House the development of the hill areas which will be quite beneficial to the country. With the development of the hill areas, lakhs of unemployed educated youth of the country will be benefited.

At the same time I would like to submit that the hills are full of forest wealth. Under agricultural scheme, if you plant fruit trees (apple, orange, cashewnuts etc.) in the hill areas, people will get employment and the Government will also be benefited from it. Also, the different medicinal plants and herbs are available in the forests and if medicinal plants based industries are set up there, the Government will benefit therefrom. There is acute shortage of cement in the country and to remove this shortage, cement factories should be established in the hill areas, because stone is available in abundance in those areas.

Regarding Morena, you must have heard about the big problem of *Baghis* in that area. It looks as if the Government has opened a sanctuary or a national park there for *Baghis*. The result is waste in the Bhind-Morena area about which the Government has not thought of taking any measure. I had raised this issue in the Madhya Pradesh

Vidhan Sabha many times and here also under Rule 377 I have drawn the attention of Government towards the fact that Government acquires land in plains for industries whereas lakhs of acres of land is lying unutilised there. I would like to submit that various types of industries can be set up in Chambal ravines lying unutilised. Electric poles can be installed there and pipe lines can be laid there and different industries can be set up there. I would like to suggest to the Central Government that an office at the district level may be set up for conducting a survey and to identify the various problems existing in each district and also to identify as to which of the industries could be set up there. The Government should get a report prepared in this regard and present it in this House during the next Budget Session.

With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI TILAKDHARI SINGH (Kodarma):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this resolution. I would not like to repeat that has already been said here by the Hon. Member. Under various schemes of I.R.D.P., 600 families of each Block in the country are to be brought above the poverty line.

In hill areas Harijans, Adivasis and other people belonging to weaker sections of society live. In order to give assistance to the people of these areas, people are selected in accordance with norms of I.R.D.P. The scheme also provides for bank loans to them. But I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that the number of banks in hill areas is quite inadequate. Under their norms they would provide loans to only those villages which are located within a radius of 10 Kilometres and not others. A Bank will take up only 30 villages. There are not sufficient branches of Commercial Banks and the people are not getting benefit of I.R.D.P. in the absence of any bank there. I, therefore, request you to get those places surveyed to identify the number of persons getting benefit there.

I would like to say one thing about Chhota Nagpur. Under the sub-plan, Central Government provides assistance. Under the norms fixed in this regard such facility is given in a block having 50 per cent of its population as tribals. People are getting

[Shri Tilakdhari Singh]

educational, medical and irrigation facilities. In this regard I would like to suggest that this limit of 50 per cent which is at block level may be reduced to Panchayat level. There are many panchayats where hundred per cent of population belongs to tribals. If you cover them under the sub-plan, many problems being faced in education and health area will automatically be solved to a great extent. You are aware that in hill areas adivasis and harijans live. If you make such arrangements, the people of those areas will be benefited.

Chhota Nagpur and Bihar have a serious problem relating to forests. We have seen that adivasis, harijans and people of weaker sections of society have been possessing agricultural land from the olden days and now the officials of the Forest Department come and say that the land, on which their people have built houses and have been living there for years together, falls within the demarcation. In this regard I would like to point out that a survey was conducted for demarcation many years ago. No, you should conduct a fresh survey and the land on which they have built their houses be exempted from demarcation. The agricultural land should also be exempted, otherwise great resentment is likely to develop among the people living there.

In addition, I would like to point out that there is lack of transport facilities in hill areas. Roads are built by the State Governments, but the roads are negligible there. I would like to say that a survey should be conducted of all the roads in the hill areas under the supervision of the Central Government. In the absence of transport facilities, these areas will remain deprived of other facilities as well.

Drinking water problem is also there. State Governments make arrangements of drinking water in hill areas, but wells cannot be dug in hills. So, the local people have to walk down a distance of about 2 kms to fetch drinking water from the springs. Central Government should provide help to the State Government to solve the drinking water problem. I would like to suggest that in the fields of education, health and irrigation, you

should formulate schemes at your own level.

I hope that you will kindly consider the points raised by me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time allotted for this Resolution is over and still one more speaker and the Minister has to intervene. So, I would like to know whether it is the pleasure of the house that one more hour should be allotted for this Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since there is no dissenting voice, one more hour is allotted for this discussion.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat.

The hon. Members who spoke prior to me have expressed their views on many points. All the hon. Members have admitted that the condition of people living in hill areas is pitiable and there are certain of things about which Government is required to pay special attention. I would not like to go into details about all of them but I would like to confine myself to 3 or 4 points.

First of all, I would like to point out that the roads in hill areas are in dilapidated condition as a result of which many accidents take place. In my view it is absolutely necessary that the roads in hill areas should be in good condition to minimise accidents and to provide more and more facilities to the passengers.

Hon. Member, Shri Manavendra Singh, who spoke before me, has made a mention about Sikkim. I had also visited that State. There is only one college in the entire State. I feel that having only one college in the entire State is a great injustice to people there in the matter of education. I would, therefore, like to say that more and more educational institutions may be set up in hill areas and these should be located at a very short distance because it takes much time for the students in the hill areas to go from

one place to another place and many students are not in a position to walk down that distance. I, therefore, suggest that for the development of hill areas more and more educational institutions may be set up there at the shortest possible distance.

In addition, I would like to point out that rail facilities are quite inadequate in hill areas. You will see that rail facilities are quite inadequate everywhere in these areas. I would, therefore, like to request you that rail facilities and other means of communication should be increased there so that maximum number of tourists could visit those areas and could appreciate the scenic beauty of hill areas. Provision of more facilities of transportation would lead to further development of those areas.

In addition to this, I would like to lay emphasis on this fact that facility of drinking water supply is very acute in hill areas. It is a fact. The Hon. Member, who spoke just before me, has rightly said that hills provide water to people living in other areas but the people living in hill areas are experiencing acute shortage of drinking water. The Government, should, therefore, pay special attention towards this problem. Water reservoir and tanks should be built in order to supply water to people in the hour of need.

Besides, I would like to point out that there is an acute lack of communication facilities in hill areas. Telephone facilities are quite inadequate there. I would like to say that telephone facilities should be provided to the people there although Government will face great difficulty in providing this facility. That shortage should be removed and the people of these areas brought at par with the mainstream of the nation. Transport and telephone facilities should be provided to them.

In addition, I would like to make a mention about the industries also. We have set up some industries in Gangtok. In this connection ..

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue your speech next time. Now we will take up Half-an-hour Discussion.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

[Translation]

Per Capita Income

SHRI MOOL CHAND DABA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I have good fortune of raising this discussion when an able Minister like Shri Ajit Panja is there. The question is that all the Hon. Members present here are committed to the Constitution. I have subscribed oath of allegiance to the Constitution and so has Shri Panja. I want to draw your attention to Article 38 :

[English]

"38 (2) The State shall, in particular, strive to minimise the inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations."

[Translation]

If at all there is a curse in India, it is that of the economic disparity.

[English]

Economic disparity is a curse.

[Translation]

Keeping this very aspect in view, I had raised the question. My question was :

[English]

"Will the Minister of Planning be placed to state :

- (a) whether one of the aims of the plans formulated/implemented in the country was to reduce economic disparity;
- (b) the minimum and the maximum per capita average income at the end of the First Five-year Plan and at present;

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

- (c) whether it is a fact that during these years, the rich became richer while the poor became poorer; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore?"

[Translation]

What reply did Shri Panja give to my question on this subject. He is a very competent person and about 400 officials, all highly qualified, work in the Department of Planning. He has said :

[English]

- "(a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The annual per capita income, i.e., the Annual Per Capita Net National Product at All India Level at the end of the First Plan period and in 1983-84 (quick estimates for the latest year available) at current and 1970-71 prices are as follows :"

[Translation]

There is no reply to my question as such. Whatever I had asked, he replied to that in a very subtle manner as follows :

[English]

- "(c) and (d). Question does not arise."

[Translation]

You have said that question does not arise, but what I wanted to know in these parts was that today on the one hand there are sky-scrappers and on the other, there are shanties on the verge of collapse. On the one hand, there is enormous accumulation of wealth and on the other, there is object poverty. I had purposefully asked it because this was my very object. My object was clear from the note I had given along with my question and, I think, the Planning Minister might have read that. The note was :

[English]

"The Prime Minister of India has recently stated that economic disparity is on the increase and the poor are becoming poorer while the rich are becoming richer. This fact has been acknowledged by all the expert economists. The Constitution of India has aimed at the removal of economic disparity among human beings. If this economic disparity is not removed, it would create in future an explosive situation which would not be tolerated by the society committed to bringing about economic revolution.

Sixth Five Year Plan has been completed, still one person's house is full of wealth while in other one's house poverty stares. Therefore, this question has assumed utmost importance."

[Translation]

This was my idea. I had asked as to what was the per capita income of the poor and what was the per capita income of the rich and what is the objective of planning by the officers in Yojana Bhawan. I have said it a number of times and I repeat it once again—it is the statement of Shri Malcolm Adiseshaiya who had been a Member—"Are we prepared to abandon such process of planning which multiplies the wealth and income of those who are already rich." He is of the view that it further increases the wealth and income. He has said, "Are we prepared to adopt such plan which could bring about equality among all so that nobody remains poor in the country during the Eighth Plan."

Sir, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given a slogan of "Garibi hatao" in 1971 but you cannot build faith on the basis of slogan alone. If economic disparity is not removed, you should see the writing on the wall, there will be a revolution and that revolution will certainly come. I do not say so, I am reading the draft paper of the Fourth Five Year Plan brought out by the Government. I want to read out what they have said :

[English]

"Another area where our effort has so far been feeble and halting, is in

narrowing the disparities in income and property ownership."

[*Translation*]

They have admitted it, if you go against it Panjaji, you should keep in mind that this is the statement of your own Department :

[*English*]

"Another area where our effort has so far been feeble and halting, is in narrowing the disparities in income and property ownership."

It is further said here :

"A study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research observes that the bottom 50 per cent of the households in India accounted for a mere 21 per cent of income in 1975-76. In the same year the top 10 per cent of the households received as much as 34 per cent of the income."

This is a World Bank study on the data collected from 66 countries during the period 1950-71, comparing the shares of income accruing to the bottom 50 per cent and the top 5 per cent of the households. In India, it was 19 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. The corresponding figures Pakistan were 28 per cent and 18 per cent. In India, 50 per cent of the people get 19 per cent of the accruing income and 5 per cent of the people get 25 per cent of the total income. Similarly, for Banglanesh, these figures were 27 per cent and 17 per cent; Sri Lanka 25 per cent and 19 per cent. Hence it appears that income inequality in India is more acute than in the neighbouring countries and the imbalance within the country has perhaps steeply deteriorated during the last few years, besides, earlier firm commitment made by the Government regarding justice—social, economic and political—and equality of status and opportunities are not only conveniently forgotten but even the honest protestations about redistributive intentions are hardly made. I think, the Hon. Minister Mr. Panja will not forget these commitments because he is a youth. Old people may forget. This is mentioned in the paper

Yojana. This is the issue of 15th April 1985. It is a recent Publication.

[*Translation*]

The Members of the Planning Commission are very honest.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN
(Barmer) : The Hon. Minister is very honest.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DABA : Nobody can stigmatise the Minister.

[*English*]

It is not a question of Minister.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : What about population growth ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DABA : I will give you the answer. Please wait. Don't be in a hurry.

[*Translation*]

I shall just read it out to you. "There is hoarding, profiteering, smuggling, adulteration black-marketing, corruption" all around in the country. Due to this, the houses of big industrial tycoons, corrupt officers and politician have unabashedly turned into pleasure—houses... (*Interruptions*) This is 1-15 March issue of *Yojana*." Further it says : "This section swallows a lion's share of the scarce resources of Indian economy. This is the section which plays havoc with the lives of the poorest people. This section is becoming richer day by day and that is why of this that the means of subsistence of the lower strata of the people are depleting." They have also said : "Disparity in poverty is like a pimple upon an ulcer." In the January Special Issue it has been said, "Are we prepared to abandon that process of planning which enhances the income and property of the richer sections of the people ? Are we prepared to accept such a plan as may ensure equality for all so that none remains poor in the country during the Eighth Plan."

They have told how the rich became richer.

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

[English]

It is your own book. I am quoting from that book. Tata's capital was Rs. 32 crores in 1972. Today, this group has got the capital of Rs. 1,789 crores. The percentage increase in 278.7 per cent. Birla's group was having a capital of Rs. 70 crores in 1972. Today, it has Rs. 1416 crores.

[Translation]

J.K. Singhania Group had a capital of Rs. 28 crores in 1972 and it rose to Rs. 499 crores in 1982. Sir, it shows an increase of 417.4 per cent. Therefore, my submission is that you just see by how much the capital of 20 big houses has increased. If I go on giving the figures of all of them, it will be 6 O'clock.

I am saying this so that you may see how the land has been distributed :

[English]

"According to the statistics of the 1971 agricultural census, marginal farmers with holdings of upto one hectare and small farmers with holdings between one and two hectares together accounting for about 70 per cent of the rural households owned only 20 per cent of the land. At the other extreme, about four per cent of the rural households owing more than ten hectares of land each accounted for nearly 31 per cent of the land."

[Translation]

This was how land was distributed. You may not agree with it, but you should tell what is their annual income, what do they have to eat. I tell you about this—The officials of the Planning Commission have put in hard labour and provided very good statistics—"Who eats how much." Foodgrains : rural 5.06 per cent and rich 24.81 per cent. Now I tell you about edible oils—why do we become deficient, why the man is becoming poorer, this you will come to know from these figures. The poor people's intake of edible oil is 0.06 per cent whereas that of the rich is 0.77 per cent.

Shri Juhar Singh consumes 0.77 per cent whereas a poor man like me consumes 0.06 per cent only. Mr. Chairman Sir, I am giving the statistics and you have rung the bell so soon.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is Half An Hour Discussion. The Minister has to reply. Then the other Hon. Members have to put questions. Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You are a large-hearted person, so give me some more time.

Now I am telling you about the consumption of gur and sugar—poor 0.05 per cent and rich 2.79 per cent; milk: poor 0.22 per cent and the rich 11.99 per cent. So, this is the consumption. You can see from this who eats how much. Now I want to tell you what is the distribution of consumer expenditure. I am telling you how much difference is there between the urban and the rural data.

[English]

You kindly make a distinction between the two. I said at the bottom 10 per cent and 10 per cent at the top. In urban 2.82 per cent and the total consumption was 29.13 per cent. In 1977-78 3.36 per cent and for the rich 27.48 per cent. In rural areas, there are rural poor and rural rich. So what is the distinction between the two. In 1953-54 it was 3.13 per cent for poor (10 per cent) and the rich was taking 26.16 per cent. Now for poor in 1967 3.65 and.....

[Translation]

The poor are getting less. The rich are getting more to spend. Their condition is further improving. They have got more to consume and more to spend.

I am unable to explain the whole thing due to paucity of time. This restriction of time will not allow me to explain the correct position.

[English]

I don't know why you are taking so much pains.

[Translation]

I am repeatedly saying that economic disparity is increasing. One Prof. Kamta Prasad has done a detailed analysis—

[English]

The gap between the rich and the poor is widening. That is the recent article which was published on January 5, 1985.

[Translation]

After having said this, I would like to state that the condition in India is like this—

[English]

Income distribution, 6.67 per cent in 1965. The percentage of national income received in 1970, highest is 26.30 per cent.

[Translation]

When I have given these figures, you kindly tell me whether the poor has become poorer or not and how the rich has become richer ? Your reply in this regard is very interesting—

[English]

"Question does not arise." How you have managed, I don't know !

[Translation]

My question is very simple. What is the income of a poor man and what is the income of the richest man in this country ? This economic disparity should be reduced. Today, one who is standing on Qutub Minar should be brought down on the ground through taxation, and the one who is on the ground should be lifted above, that is my suggestion.

[English]

Annual per capita, All India level, current price 236 and then he said "quick estimates." I don't know what is "quick estimates." And then he says 226 also.

[Translation]

This is the reply I have received. My submission is that there should be full discussion on this subject besides this Half an hour discussion. The position today is that capital with a few persons is increasing and we should see to it that our liberal policy may not help the rich to become richer and the poor poorer. Since I was apprehensive about it, I had put this question—but my question has not been answered. I see all around in the villages and cities that only a few people are getting all the benefits.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : The unstarred question put by the Hon. Member, Mr. M. C. Daga, question No. 469 was :

"Whether one of the aims of the plans formulated and implemented in the country was to reduce the economic disparity."

My answer was 'Yes, Sir'. The (b) part of the question was : what was the minimum and maximum per capita average income at the end of the First Five Year Plan and at present.

You must have marked that the Hon. Member asked for minimum and maximum per capita average income in the First Five Year Plan and at present. You must be knowing that so far as Indian planning is concerned, we had to decide the priorities and the planners from the very beginning of the First Plan were really struggling to find out a way to calculate what is the poverty line and for such purpose and to calculate the poverty line that we should go in for ascertaining the per capita income which was in fact accepted. But that effort met with resistance. (a) Nobody wanted to

[Shri A. K. Panja]

disclose what is his annual income because the per capita average is not only of the Birlas and the income-tax payers but it is the per capita average throughout the country. (b) For that purpose such a huge infra-structure was required that it was not possible at that time for the planners to embark upon a plan of ascertaining the income. But the priorities have to be decided. We have to know where are the poor people and what is their income level, and how much food they need and that is why an inquiry into the consumption expenditure level was made. As presently advised by the doctors, in the rural areas our people need per head per day 2400 calorific intake. Their food, whatever they are having, must have 2400 calories. In the city each one must have per day 2100 calorific intake. The immediate task of the planners starting from Mr. P. C. Mahalonobis and other luminaries was to ascertain as to what would be the consumption expenditure for attaining this calorific intake. It was ascertained in the year 1971-72 to be a little over 49 for rural areas and a little over Rs 50 in the urban areas. This is what they wanted to do—that this consumption expenditure is to be taken as the line of poverty, meaning thereby that if a person does not have the ability to spend a particular amount to reach this food value of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas, he is regarded as poor.

Now for that purpose we have made a calculation and therefore, for the answer which we have given, we wanted to know the all India annual income and not per capita i.e. per head income. That is why it has been answered as to what was the price in 1965-66 and what was the current price and in 1970-71 what was the price and what was the price in 1983-84. Therefore (c) part of the question 'Whether in fact during these years the rich have become richer while the poor became poorer' has been answered as 'Does not arise' considering (a) and (b). It is not an independent question, but considering (a) and (b), (c) does not arise. If we have no figure of the maximum per capita i.e. per head income, it is not possible to answer 'c' and, therefore, it has been said "It does not arise." As regards Hon. Member's charge that consumption level is going down, I say, that is not correct. The charge that the poverty line is going up, namely, there are more poor and the

poor people are not brought above the poverty line is not correct.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : My statement is that economic disparity is increasing. Please tell what is the per capita income of the lowest and the per capita income at the top and disparity between the two.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, the discussion has been allowed on the 'question' and, as such, I have to answer the 'question'. The figures must be known because there should not be an impression that the country is not trying to solve the problem of the poor and bring them above the poverty line. In 1979-80—the starting point of Sixth Plan—in the rural area there were 28.42 crore people below the poverty line. In the urban area, the figure was 6.36 crore below the poverty line. The total of both comes to 34.78 crores. In the year 1984-85, it has come down to 22.22 crore in the rural area and 5.05 crore in the urban area. The total of the two comes to 27.27 crore. The combined percentage of persons below the poverty line was 52.4 per cent in 1979-80 and at the end of the Sixth Plan it became 36.9 per cent. Our attempt from now on upto the end of Seventh plan is at 25.8 per cent.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I am not asking about the number. I am simply asking the economic disparity between the rich and the poor. I am also not asking how many people have crossed the poverty line. I only say that the rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. The Hon. Minister is very young and he knows how to mould the things.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, in my life I have not ever misled any member either in West Bengal Legislative Assembly or here. Therefore, the question of misleading the House does not arise but Mr. Daga must know the facts. It has come down. Our leaders who led the country did work hard and, therefore, it has been brought down from 52.4 per cent to 36.9 per cent. It is true that it should have been more but not that nothing has been done. Then the poverty percentage come down by 15.5 in the Sixth

Plan and now in the Seventh Plan our attempt is to bring down further by 11.1 per cent i.e. 8.38 per cent of the population of 1984-85.

Sir, the Hon. Member has said that the question has not been properly answered. I want to point out that the question has been properly answered. The question raised by the Hon. Member about distribution of income and land distribution is absolutely irrelevant so far as this question is concerned. This question when asked about the income level was attempted to. But, as I said, the resistance was there. But we have to ascertain if consumers go forward and it is not the consumption level of the expenditure for which this figure was given. Now, one point I must make clear.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : My humble submission is that when I am talking of the poor, I am talking of the...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, there cannot be a discussion like this.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Mr. Daga has got great experience, no doubt. But in spite of that I have some experience to establish what I want to say.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The whole Yojana Bhawan is behind you.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : When the Hon. Member spoke, I did not utter a single word.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't disturb the Hon. Minister now.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It is not a question of disturbing, Sir.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Now, the point is raised as to whether rich is becoming richer and the poor is becoming poorer. We have to go by the standard maintained by them. We can't just answer this point off hand without going into these things. Therefore, the real expenditure, that is the consumption expenditure in the Seventh Five Year Plan in the rural areas, is Rs. 107 to reach the calorie intake and in the urban areas it is Rs. 122. Therefore, taking as a whole so far as the per household consumption per annum

is concerned, it comes to Rs. 6400 and so far as urban area is concerned, it comes to Rs. 7300. Rs. 6400 per household per annum contain five members. This is at the starting of 1984-85. Therefore, coming to the question of the Hon. Member, I do not think that there is anything misleading or incomplete. The answers under (a), and (c), in my submission, have been correctly answered.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Chairman, Sir, my first question is what is your method of computing per capita annual income and what are the agencies and departments of which you have sought the cooperation in calculating this income?

The Hon. Minister has stated just now that the percentage of people living below the poverty line has gone down from 52 per cent to 36.9 per cent. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to what was the percentage of people living below the poverty line during each of the first six Five Year Plans and what is Government's target for the Seventh Five Year Plan?

My third question is that at what number India stands among the poor countries of the world and what are the names of the countries which are poorer than India. I would like the Hon. Minister to give information about these three question.

[*English*]

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP (Thane) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is difficult to show the disparity between the rich and the poor. But at least, the Hon. Minister should say what is the income of a person in the rural areas and that of a person in the urban areas. It is mentioned that according to 1979-71 index, the income was Rs. 508 while in 1984-85, it was Rs. 749. I want to know what is the per capita income in rural areas as also in the rural areas. The all-India percentage of population in 1983-84 below the poverty line in the rural areas is 40 per cent, whereas in the case of Bihar, it is 51 per cent, Maharashtra 41 per cent, and Madhya Pradesh 50 per cent. What steps are the

[Shri S. G. Gholap]

Government taking specially to improve the position in the States which are lacking ?

What was the percentage of the below poverty line people in the year 1955-56 and the year 1983-84 ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : Seeral questions have been asked. The first question by the Hon. Member is how these figures have been arrived at. I must make it clear that the figures are not on the basis of income, because that exercise did not take place; the figures are on the basis of expenditure, that is consumption expenditure for ascertaining the number of people below the poverty line. That has been done by what was formed the task force on minimum needs and effective consumption demand. The origin is that when the country is big, and there is resistance to disclosure from persons about their income, it was found by the economist that they readily and voluntarily say what is their consumption expenditure; how much they have to spend. Finding that way, the economist thought that that was the best way to ascertain how many people were below the poverty line. The task force which was formed approached the medical men who advised that to maintain healthy standards, daily calorie requirement of 2400 per person is necessary in the rural areas.

After daily calorie intake was ascertained, an attempt was made what would be the cost. When the cost is taken as 'X', a survey was made as to how many people could spend that amount of money; or whether they have got so much money for the purpose of meeting this expenditure on food. When this is ascertained, we come to what is called 'poverty line'.

Then, inflation is there in the country and along with that, population is also rising. Therefore, we have to find out a way to come to proper calculations. The value of calorie, intake remains the same. Therefore, we used a deflated system and by using that, we increased from Rs. 49.09 per capita per month in 1973-74 in rural areas and Rs. 59.64 per capita per month the urban areas in 1973-74 to the present amount of Rs. 106

and Rs. 122 respectively. The increase of population is taken care of. It is no less work done by our great leaders, who took charge of country's development. Though there is increase in population and there is inflation, still the poverty ratio is coming down. It is coming down, of course slowly, but it is coming down definitely in each of the Plans.

The second question was with regard to what was the rate by which the poverty was coming down in the various plans. I have given the figures for the 6th and 7th Plan. I do not have the figures for the 1st, 2nd to 5th Plans. I would inform the Members about this.

So far as the questions as to what is the position of India in relation to other countries in the matter of poverty, these facts are not again with me and I require notice for that. Certainly, I will inform about that also to the concerned Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not replied Shri Gholap's question.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : The average income in 1955-56 was Rs. 508 and in 1983-84, it is Rs. 749. What is the average income in rural and urban areas respectively, so that the disparity can be compared ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I think I need notice for this. I have got the figures of annual per capita income for all-India only. In this, how much is for rural and how much for urban areas, has to be found out. I will look into this and give the necessary reply to the Hon. Member.

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : There is another question. The percentage of the population living below the poverty line is 40 per cent for all India, while in Bihar it is 51 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 50 per cent and Maharashtra 41 per cent. The percentage is higher in all these States compared to all India level. What are the steps taken to reduce the disparity ?

SHRI A. K. PANJA : This is a very relevant question and I am happy that the Hon. Member asked it. The all-India average is not 40 per cent, it is 37.4 per cent. The average for rural areas is 40.4 per cent and here I am talking about the combined average of rural plus urban, i. e. all India, which is 37.4 per cent. Out of this, in those areas where we find a higher percentage of people below the poverty line, the IRDP schemes as also the Direct Assault on poverty by special schemes are being implemented. Along with that, the indirect approach i. e. the fiscal measures as suggested by Shri Daga are also being strengthened. Almost every day it is coming in newspapers. But the position in our country is such that just by some Alladdin's lamp, this disparity cannot be removed. People are struggling and people are working. Along with that, with the help of the mem-

bers, gradually, this percentage of population below the poverty line will go down. I can say for the benefit of this House that so far as the States are concerned, we find the lowest percentage in Manipur, which is 12 per cent. In all the other states, the percentage is generally above the average all-India level.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion is over. The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till

Eleven of the Clock on Monday,

December 2, 1985/Agrahayana 11, 1907

(Saka).